



DAILY REPORT

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Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 075

16 April 1980

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REPORTAGE ON STEADFASTNESS FRONT CONFERENCE

Proposal for Iraq-Iran Mediation

ID151222 Kuwait KUNA in English 1054 GMT 15 Apr

[Text] Kuwait, April 15, (KUNA)--The Arab Steadfastness Front has decided to ask Saudi Arabia to mediate between Iraq and Iran in an attempt to defuse the crisis between the two Gulf countries.

AL-ANBA' newspaper reported Tuesday that the front, which groups Libya, Algeria, Syria, South Yemen, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, will send envoys to urge the Saudi and Kuwaiti leaderships to help solve the Iranian-Iraqi dispute.

The newspaper added that this decision must be exerted to stop further deterioration in the Iraqi-Iranian relations.

Another newspaper said the envoys would also clarify to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait a recent decision by the front to sever diplomatic relations with Sudan, Oman and Somalia. Those countries refused to join the Arab majority in imposing economic and political sanctions against Egypt for its signing a peace treaty with Israel.

AL-QABAS added that the front decided to cut off relations with these three Arab countries for their granting military facilities to the U.S.

The front meeting is due to end tonight amidst determination by the front leaders to cut gas and oil supply to the U.S. and Western Europe for their stand on the Middle East problem.

End of Conference

ID151244 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] The fourth conference of the leaders of the National Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation concluded its meeting at 1215 at the international conference hall in Al-Aziziyah, Tripoli. The conference issued a political statement and a number of important decisions, above all a decision to set up a joint military force and a political leadership for the front.

Oil Embargo Decision

NC151249 Paris AFP in English 1247 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Tripoli, April 15 (AFP)--The fourth Steadfastness Front summit decided at its 5th closing session here today to submit a proposal on an oil embargo of the United States to an Arab League economy and finance ministers conference scheduled soon in Amman, a reliable source said here. The front, which opposes Egypt's peace with Israel, will ask all Arab nations to revise their relations with Washington.

The front, which groups Algeria, Syria, South Yemen, Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), also decided to recognise the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. This was proclaimed by the Algerian-backed POLISARIO nationalists fighting for self-determination in the former Western Sahara, after Morocco and Mauritania partitioned the region in agreement with Spain in 1975. Mauritania subsequently reached a peace agreement with POLISARIO.

The summit confirmed "Steadfastness Front" plans to create a joint military command, under Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and a political command under Algerian President Bendjedid Chadli, a reliable source reported.

Plans for Moscow Visit

NC151425 Paris AFP in English 1410 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Tripoli, April 15 (AFP)--The fourth Steadfastness Front summit here closed today after adopting a series of decisions including the creation of joint political and military organisations.

The leaders of Algeria, Libya, Syria, South Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organization, who opened the conference on Sunday, also decided to send a Steadfastness Front delegation, led by Libyan head of state Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, to Moscow.

The delegation is to review with Soviet leaders the reinforcement of relations with the front, which opposes the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, and possibilities for reaching a military balance in the Mideast, notably favoring Syria.

The Steadfastness Front also decided to recognize the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic proclaimed by the Algeria-backed POLISARIO front.

Summit Resolutions

LD151833 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] The Fourth Summit Conference of the National Steadfastness and Confrontation Front ended its work at 1415 today at the international conference hall in Tripoli. At the end of the session the final statement and resolutions were read; they provided for the formation of National Steadfastness and Confrontation Front institutions, namely, the front's supreme command, a political committee and information committee, a unified military command and a joint military and security force linked to the military command.

Following the reading of the final statement and resolutions, the conference thanked the brother leader and the Libyan Arab people for being host to the fourth session of the National Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and for the facilities they provided, thus contributing to the success of the conference.

Here is the text of the political statement and the conference resolutions:

The conference reviewed developments since the third conference of the front in Damascus in both the Arab and international arenas. It also discussed in detail the current situation in the Arab-Israeli imperialist struggle and also the grave consequences of the continuation of the Camp David policy, and it further clarified the extent of the great plot which U.S. imperialism and world Zionism are trying to perpetrate against the Arab nation, their attempts to split the Arab nation, destroy its national unity and create contradictions among its regions and also to involve this nation in quarrels, using As-Sadat's regime against the Arab nation, with the people of Egypt in the forefront.

All this is with the aim of having complete domination over the Arab homeland and making the Arab nation yield by destroying its national and pan-Arab achievements and plundering its resources, and with the aim of placing the Arab region under the American-Zionist umbrella.

Analyzing this situation the conference reached the following conclusions:

1. The actions by the Camp David parties are but links in a chain of wicked conspiracies led by American imperialism and Zionism against the Arab nation and its central issue, Palestine.

2. The normalization of relations between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity constitutes a new step in the strengthening of the aggressive pact between the United States, the Zionist enemy and the As-Sadat regime, which is basically directed against the Arab nation, including the Arab people of Egypt.

3. The principal aim of the imperialist-Zionist plan is to liquidate the question of Palestine and to fragment the Palestinian Arab people and obliterate their national identity, as well as to remove the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. Hence the determination of the parties of Camp David to implement the conspiracy of liquidating the Palestinian revolution, to continue building the Zionist settlements, to implement the conspiracy of self-administration for the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and of the resettlement of the Palestinian refugees and to oust the Palestinian people from their homeland.

4. Syria constitutes here the main link to be attacked and liquidated, since it is the center of steadfastness and confrontation by virtue of its geographical and pan-Arab position with regard to the question of Palestine, and since it is the main military and political force in the confrontation of the Zionist enemy and its allies. Hence the vicious onslaught to which Arab Syria is subjected in a desperate attempt to put an end to its pan-Arab role by striking at its internal front, since it is considered the main prop of Syria's strength and steadfastness in respect of the parties of Camp David.

5. The aim is to extend American control over some Arab states, to set up American military bases in them and to defend Western interests there under the guise of defending the independence of those states from an imaginary danger.

6. There is an attempt to narrow the differences between As-Sadat's regime and other Arab regimes as the first step toward drawing them into the framework of the Camp David policies and in order to kill the unity of the Arab stance, which was strengthened by the resolutions of the Arab summit and also an attempt to increase conflict in the Arab region and to pit Arabs against Arabs, to ensure that Arabs do not all take the same line against the main enemy, that is, the Zionist presence, the ambitions of American imperialism and the parties to Camp David.

7. Certain West European countries are still hesitating to adopt attitudes consistent with the interests of their own people; they try to circumscribe the Arab attitude through projects peripheral to the Camp David agreements and Security Council Resolution 242. They thereby find themselves trailing behind the U.S. Mideast policy, disregarding the justice of the cause of the Arab problem and its essence, the Palestinian problem, and disregarding the serious results of the continuing American policy in the Arab region.

8. The Arab stand embodied in the resolutions of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the Arab summits of Baghdad and Tunis and in the support of Islamic states, the nonaligned Socialist and African states, and the forces of liberation and progress throughout the Arab world, by rejecting the Camp David agreements, constituted something of a drive for struggling forces in Arab Egypt to intensify their campaign against As-Sadat's regime and his capitulationist path. This has increased nationalist activity and expressed the determination of our masses in Arab Egypt to defeat conspiracies aimed at snatching Egypt away from its natural pioneering place in the Arabs' struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

9. Events and developments witnessed by the Arab homeland since the setting up of the National Confrontation and Steadfastness Front in Tripoli in December 1977 have shown that this front has become a nucleus for the Arab stand that rejects a capitulatory course for the Arab region and has played a leading role at Arab and international conferences, and have shown that the development of this front, the renewal of the energies of its members and the consolidation of its existence have become a pressing demand, so as to transform it into a more effective response against the plot and its challenges and a more effective method for deepening Arab solidarity on the basis of confronting and foiling the plans of Camp David and for supporting and promoting liberatory and progressive trends in the Arab homeland.

In the light of this and after a deep study of the Arab and international situation, the conference adopted a number of resolutions:

1. The conference confirms the continuation of the steadfastness and confrontation policy against Zionism and U.S. imperialism as being the main enemies of the Arab nation. It calls on the Arab governments to reconsider their relations with the United States of America, seeing the establishment of any U.S. base in the Arab homeland as a direct aggression against the front's members and against the Arab nation and as something which must be opposed with every means; it calls on the Arab masses to increase their struggle against these bases.

2. It confirms the creation of the following National Steadfastness and Confrontation Front institutions, as stipulated in the Damascus declaration:

- A) A supreme command;
- B) A political committee;
- C) An information committee;
- D) A military command.

It was decided that these should become operational immediately and should appoint their executive machinery.

It was also decided to set up a joint military force belonging to the front and linked with the military command.

3. The political committee of the front is entrusted with the task of drafting a program for joint Arab action, and this is to be presented to the front's members. When it has been endorsed by these members, it is to be put to the Arab [League] government. The program is based on the following points:

- A. Resisting the Zionist presence and confronting the imperialist policy in the region.
- B. Mobilizing a political, economic and military effort in the struggle against the enemy and submitting a program for building armed forces to help in the re-establishment of military balance with the Zionist enemy.
- C. Concentrating the main Arab effort in the direction of struggle against the Zionist enemy.
- D. Determining clear-cut attitudes against the policy of the United States, which provides support and backing to the Zionist enemy, which strengthens the Zionist entity and perpetuates its occupation of Arab land.

E. The front members will submit an economic program to a meeting of Arab foreign and economic ministers, which will prepare an Arab summit in order to use the Arab economy in negative and positive confrontation.

4. It is essential to continue work in resisting the Camp David policy, to confront the Zionist and imperialist plans, to mobilize the Arab masses and utilize their capabilities in the confrontation arena, and to mobilize the potential of people's organizations and trade unions in order to confront the parties of Camp David and their interests in the region, in the belief that the Arab masses are the basis of the pan-Arab struggle and the main force in the struggle arena, as they are the target of Zionism and imperialism, having as they do a real interest in liberation and progress. It is also essential to abort all plans and conspiracies that aim at dominating the region.

5. The conference reaffirms its support for the general Arab people's congress and condemns all attempts aiming at splitting or harming the unity of this congress.

6. The conference will determine the economic relations of the front members with the European countries if the latter continue to play a role on behalf of the United States against the Arab issue.

7. The conference reaffirms its determination to tighten the boycott against the As-Sadat regime economically, politically and technically, as well as in the information field, and to apply the provisions of the boycott against the Israeli enemy also against the As-Sadat regime and its institutions and establishments, and it calls on the Arab governments to apply the same provisions.

8. It is essential to back the steadfastness of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied homeland and elsewhere, materially and politically, and to strengthen their potential in confronting the self-administration conspiracy and resisting the occupation and to back the Palestinian PLO, since it is the leader of the armed struggle of the Palestinian people and the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people inside and outside the occupied homeland.

The states of the front are committed to confront all the suspect attempts by imperialism, Zionism and reaction inside the occupied homeland which are aimed at harming the unity of the Palestinian people, the unity of their representation and the unity of their leadership through the PLO.

9. It is essential to stand by Arab Syria in the face of the vicious imperialist-Zionist onslaught to which it is being subjected since it is considered the main link in the Arab steadfastness and to act to strengthen its steadfastness so as to restore the strategic balance between it and the Zionist enemy as an inevitable stage toward liberation and the restoration of pan-Arab rights.

10. It is essential to resist any attempt aimed at bypassing the Arab stance and to reject any settlement of the Palestine question based on Security Council Resolution 242 or any amendment stemming from this resolution.

11. The conference asserts the right of the Palestinian revolution to operate from all the Arab fronts and it calls on the fraternal government of Jordan to enable the Palestinian revolution to exercise its role and its fighting responsibilities against the Zionist enemy across the Jordanian front.

12. It is essential to the struggle of the Arab people of Egypt to resist the betrayal by the As-Sadat regime and the Zionist infiltration there and to support all Egyptian patriotic and progressive forces in their national struggle for the liberation of Egypt and its return to the Arab nation.

13. The conference affirms the Arabism, unity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon. It also honors the agreements which have been concluded between the Lebanese government and the PLO and the resolutions of the Arab conference and the Bayt ad-Din conference. It supports the principles of the Lebanese National Charter and calls on all parties in sister Lebanon to implement them. It also underlines its stand by the side of Lebanon against the Zionist aggression on Arab territory and calls on the Arab governments to enter into a joint Arab action in order to confront this aggression.

14. The conference has decided to recognize the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic and calls on the Arab states to recognize it.

15. The parties of the front work for the consolidation and promotion of their relations in various fields with countries of the socialist community, first and foremost the sister Soviet Union, and to raise these relations to a level that is apt to consolidate the effective and decisive confrontation of the Camp David accords and the parties to them. In this framework the conference, while stressing its belief in the principles of nonalignment, hold the view that nonalignment does not mean taking a neutral stand in the struggle between the imperialist and Zionist forces, on the one hand, and the forces of liberation and progress, on the other hand, since friend and foe cannot be placed in the same position.

16. The conference has decided that Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi will contact the Soviet Union in the name of the front so as to discuss the possibility of developing relations between the Soviet Union and the front, thus leading to more military and political support for the Steadfastness Front and the restoration of military and political balance in the region, and also the strengthening and deepening of relations between the Soviet Union and the front's member states.

17. The conference reasserts the importance of strengthening relations with African states and deepening Arab-African solidarity in the face of imperialist and Zionist plots in the face of racism in Africa and in occupied Palestine. It stresses the priority of providing Arab support and aid for friendly African states who stand by the justice of Arab and Palestinian rights.

18. The conference asserts its solidarity with the Iranian Revolution in its conflict with the conspiracies of the United States. It considers that any aggressive American measures against Iran would constitute a serious danger to peace and security in the region and in the world.

19. The conference respects Afghanistan's determination to defend its homeland, the security of its territory and its nonalignment.

20. The conference affirms its support and aid for the legitimate government of Chad, led by Goukouni Oueddei and formed according to the Lagos agreement; it supports this government against imperialist conspiracies and the partisans of imperialism. It calls for the evacuation of imperialist forces whose presence on Chad's territory they regard as an obstacle to national reconciliation, in accordance with the above-mentioned agreement.

21. The conference advocates rendering all manner of support to liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America, in order to intensify their struggle to confront imperialism, Zionism and racialism, and in order that they should achieve their aims of freedom, independence and progress.

22. The conference draws attention to the close relation between the security of the Mediterranean and that of the Arab region. In this connection the conference affirms its support for the Republic of Malta, which has declared its neutrality and evacuated the colonialist forces from its territory.

23. The conference advocates the continuation of the work to bolster Arab solidarity so that it will be more effective in confronting the Zionist enemy and imperialism and to throw the capabilities of the Arab nation in the Arab-Zionist arena of struggle, to work for maintaining the unity of the Arab attitude vis-a-vis the grave dangers threatening the Arab nation which were manifested in the Camp David agreements, and to invite the Arab governments to avoid side differences and to unite and then direct their efforts toward the main enemy in occupied Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories. The conference has also decided to continue to follow up the developments on both the Arab and international fields and to contact the fraternal Arab states in order to strengthen the joint Arab action in a manner which is apt to increase the Arab nation's capability to have comprehensive confrontation against the Zionist enemy and the policy of Camp David and to contact the nonaligned states and the socialist community and the European states in order to provide the widest international support for the just struggle of the Arabs.

The conference, while renewing its commitment to the policy of steadfastness and confrontation until the aims of the Arab nation are achieved, reaffirms that the Arab nation with its moral and material capabilities and its wide masses and with its national forces is capable of confronting the aggression and conspiracy and achieving victory, God willing, over all its enemies.

The fourth conference has issued a decision for the formation of the supreme command of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front from among the leaders of the pan-Arab Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation. The decision provides that the front's supreme command will meet once every 6 months in one of the capitals of the member states in rotation. It can meet whenever necessary and at the request of one of its members. The decision also stipulates that the decisions of the command are taken by majority vote and these decisions are binding on all members.

The conference also decided to set up the political command of the pan-Arab Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation consisting of the foreign ministers of Algeria, Syria and the PDRY, the foreign secretary of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah and the head of the PLO political department. The decision stipulates that the political committee should follow up the implementation of the decisions of the supreme command and suggest the plans of political action and coordinate the work among the members of the front in the political field and to carry out the mission entrusted to it by the supreme command.

The conference also decided to set up an information committee consisting of the minister of information and culture of Algeria, the Syrian minister of information, the secretary of the Popular Committee for Information in Libya, the official in charge of information in the PDRY and the head of the PLO information department.

The decision stipulates that the front's information committee should propose information plans and follow up the implementation of the resolutions connected with information and coordinate information among members of the front. The committee is to meet periodically every 6 months in one of the capitals of the member states and in rotation and whenever necessary at the request of one of its members.

The fourth conference also decided to set up a unified command in accordance with what had been agreed upon among the leaders of the pan-Arab Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation. The conference also issued a decision for the formation of a joint military and security force for the pan-Arab Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation. The decision provides that the command of this force should be assumed by a Syrian officer to be assisted by staff officers from the rest countries of the front.

Creation of Military Force

LD152046 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] The Fourth Summit Conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front has issued a resolution regarding the formation of a joint military force. Here is the text:

Taking cognizance of the declaration of the principles and aims of Steadfastness and Confrontation Front institutions issued in Damascus on 23 September 1978, and the resolution adopted in Tripoli on 15 April 1980 regarding the creation of the front's institutions, the following has been decided:

1. A joint military and security force of the steadfastness and confrontation states will be set up.
2. The command of the joint military and security force will be entrusted to a Syrian officer who will be assisted by staff officers from the remaining members of the front.
3. The nucleus of this force will be as outlined in the attached appendix. [as of filing time JANA has not been observed to carry cited appendix]

[Signed] Chadli Bendjedid, Hafiz al-Asad, Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, Yasir 'Arafat. Tripoli, 15 April 1980.

Resolution on Institutions

LD152056 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] The Fourth Summit Conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front has issued a decision regarding the setting up of the front's institutions. Here is the text:

The conference has decided the following:

1. (1) The supreme command of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front will be composed of: President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic; Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah; brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party and chairman of the Presidium of the PDRY Supreme People's Council; brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

(2) The front's supreme command will meet once every 6 months in one of the capitals of the member states in rotation. It can meet also whenever necessary and at the request of one of its members. (3) The command will adopt decisions by majority vote and such decisions will be binding on all members.

2 (1) The political committee will be composed of: the foreign minister of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; the foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic; the foreign secretary of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; the foreign minister of the PDRY; the head of the political department of the PLO. (2) The political committee will undertake the following: (A) to follow up the implementation of the decisions taken by the supreme command; (B) to propose the political action plans; (C) to coordinate political action among the members of the front; (D) to carry out the task entrusted to it by the supreme command. (3) The political committee will meet periodically once every 3 months in one of the member countries in rotation. It can meet whenever necessary and on the request of one of the members.

3. The information committee will be composed of: the minister of information and culture of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; the minister of information of the Syrian Arab Republic; the secretary of the Popular Committee for Information in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; the official in charge of information and culture in the PDRY; the head of the Information Department of the PLO.

The information committee will undertake the following: to propose information plans; to follow up the implementation of decisions concerning information; to carry out information coordination among the members of the front.

The information committee will meet periodically once every 6 months in one of the member countries in rotation. It can meet whenever necessary and at the request of one of the members.

4. A unified military command will be set up in accordance with what has been agreed upon by the leaders. [Dated] Tripoli, 15 April 1980.

VIENNA PAPER II, INTERVIEWS PLO'S YASIR 'ARAFAT

Part One

AU151755 Vienna ARBEITER-ZEITUNG in German 14 Apr 80 p 3

[Part one of ARBEITER-ZEITUNG publisher Albrecht K. Konecny interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Beirut "during the Easter holidays"]

[Summary] AZ: In the past few weeks the PLO has scored some important successes in the diplomatic field. What is their importance for you?

'Arafat: "The recognition of the PLO by Austria, India and Senegal is not only an important step for us, it is also the expression of the success of our efforts to win the understanding of the peoples and their responsible politicians for our just cause. It is an important development that the Israeli arguments are no longer believed in the West. The Israelis are losing the game of controlling the Western mass media. This is why today they are resorting to the method of simply inventing stories that could be used against the PLO.

AZ: Are you alluding to the Venezuelan paper EL MUNDO's assertion that you declared in an interview that Israel's destruction has remained the goal of the PLO?

'Arafat: "Yes. I have not given any interview to this paper. What it published is sheer invention. We are not going to put up with this method. We are examining the possibilities of taking steps against that paper."

AZ: This brings up the key question--namely, what guarantees are the PLO ready to give Israel in the event of the establishment of a Palestinian state?

'Arafat: "It is interesting that one keeps asking us for guarantees. How about guarantees by Israel? We Palestinians have offered two solutions for the coexistence of the two peoples. First we said: Let us all--Jews and Arabs--live together in a democratic state, with equal rights and free. That was resolutely rejected by the Israelis.

"Then I said in my speech before the United Nations--and this continues to be valid--that we are ready to begin our state on every piece of land that is either released by Israel or that is liberated by us.

"We have also accepted the proposals contained in the joint U.S.-Soviet communique of October 1977 as a good platform for a settlement. But, under Israel's influence, the United States later on dissociated itself again from these proposals. Dayan has quite rightly referred to his talks with Vance that led to this retreat as his '6-hour war.'

AZ: Do you see any indication of a change in the U.S. attitude toward the PLO's aim of an independent Palestinian state?

'Arafat: "Unfortunately, the United States sees the situation exclusively through Israeli glasses. It cares only for Israeli security requirements and Israeli interests while forgetting all about the Palestinians, who actually are the victims of the current situation." What is frequently used as an excuse for this U.S. policy is the so-called "Israeli lobby" in the United States. When the United States some time ago stopped supplying Turkey with military goods, this was blamed on a "Greek lobby." Now, after the victory of the Iranian Revolution, Turkey suddenly gets everything again, and no one talks any longer about a "Greek lobby." "I believe that this is not so much a question of an 'Israeli lobby' in the United States but rather of a 'U.S. lobby' in Israel. For, the policy of the United States is in fact the policy of the large steel and arms industries, the policy of the monopolies. We have learned enough about the policy of the United States to understand its motives."

AZ: How about Israel? Do you see any developments there that you might assess as positive?

'Arafat: "There are some positive changes among democratic and progressive forces, but we see that they do not reflect the opinion of the majority. The majority situation continues to resemble that reflected in the Knesset vote of March 1978, when a resolution was passed 115 to 5 that called for the destruction of the PLO and its leaders. This gives you an idea of what Israel means for us Palestinians.

"I marvel that the Israeli parliament could pass such a barbaric resolution without causing an outcry in the West, in the United States."

Part Two

AU151805 Vienna ARBEITER-ZEITUNG in German 15 Apr 80 p 3

[Part two of ARBEITER-ZEITUNG Publisher Albrecht K. Konecny interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat]

[Summary] AZ: What about the autonomy for the Palestinians as envisaged by the Camp David agreements, and now being sought jointly by Israel, the United States and Egypt?

'Arafat: "The Camp David agreements are a conspiracy against the Palestinian people. That is what we said then, and we are repeating it today. What they offer us is really a new form of slavery, and that is something we certainly will not accept. For, what is actually the contents of these proposals? Not a single day goes by without Begin declaring that he will not accept any solution that leads to an independent Palestinian state. At the same time the Israelis continue their policy in the country itself; they confiscate the land of Palestinian farmers, and they even confiscate the sources of water. Let me ask you: Is there a village anywhere in the world that is not allowed to control its own source of water, the water its people drink and use to irrigate their fields? In the occupied territories we have this situation in many places. What they offer us is not only not autonomy, it is not even self-administration. It is merely a caricature that does not offer the Palestinians any real rights. We don't need a self-administration for garbage removal and street cleaning. Even in the South African bantustans people have more rights. Our entire people reject this settlement--the people both outside and inside the occupied territories."

"Our people will continue to struggle until they have achieved their goal, until the implementation of our right to self-determination, until the establishment of an independent state."

AZ: But if no new impetus can be expected either from Israel or from the United States, how are things to go on for the Palestinians?

'Arafat: "First of all, what is decisive for me is not any political steps by the United States. What is decisive for me is the tragedy of my people, the conspiracy against my people, the aggression and oppression from which my people suffer, the future of our children."

"What is necessary above all today is to bring international pressure to bear on Israel and to develop the broad struggle of the Palestinian people. These are the two most important aspects of our endeavors. Israel must understand at long last that it cannot control the problem by force." Tell me one example in history where force was successful in the long run. The United States and France failed in Vietnam, as did France in Algeria, and centuries ago the British in America. History encourages us, we will reach our goal.

AZ: Will armed actions continue to be part of your struggle?

'Arafat: "Our military actions are continuing. The right to resistance is a right of our people, and it is in full compliance with international legality. Before our armed struggle began, we were merely regarded as refugees, as numbers on the UNRWA lists, as tenth-class citizens. Our people got neither passports nor identity cards. They could not marry, go to school, nor travel. They could not even work--or if so, then only under renunciation of all rights that are a matter of course for other working people."

Although we have made progress in many respects, our fate of being homeless still affects us on many occasions. One example: years ago we set up a cemetery here in Beirut; now it is full, but no one is ready to sell us any land for a new cemetery. We will end up having to dump our dead into the sea, like sailors. The world closes its eyes to this fate, but keeps asking us why we put up resistance. We will continue to put up resistance, because anyone--even the Israelis--must understand that there can be no solution, no peace in this region if it attempts to ignore the Palestinians.

BAHRAIN

GOVERNMENT STUDIES PLANS FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

GF130720 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 13 Apr 80 p 1

[Text] The Bahrain Government is studying plans for a return to parliamentary democracy. "The government as a whole has given the matter a great deal of thought," said the foreign minister, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah. "It believes that participation of the people in the country's rule is a basic requirement for stability and internal security. "This in turn would enable Bahrain and the Gulf states to confront any external threats," said Shaykh Mubarak.

Shaykh Mubarak expressed hope that a formula for the restoration of a Parliament in Bahrain will crystallise by the end of the year. He also said that the five years without democratic rule should provide experience for the new democracy which will be aligned with economic growth.

Because security coordination between the Gulf states is necessary to control external threats to the area, talks are being held between Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to define the form of democracy most suited to Bahrain, with an eye to the Gulf overall.

Shaykh Muhammad revealed the news of the proposed new democracy in the Kuwait newspaper AL-QABAS.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES DOMESTIC, OTHER ISSUES

GF141208 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 12 Apr 80 p 10

[Dispatch by AL-QABAS correspondent in Bahrain]

[Excerpts] Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah has declared that the Bahraini Government is seriously studying the formulation of a practical, realistic and acceptable plan for a return to parliamentary life. He said the government as a whole is giving the matter a great deal of thought and believes that the people's participation in governing the country is a basic requirement for stability and internal security. This in turn would enable Bahrain and the Gulf states to confront any external threats. Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak expressed the hope that a new formula for the restoration of Parliament in Bahrain will crystalize by the end of theyear.

In an interview with AL-QABAS in which he discussed various current Bahraini, Gulf and Arab issues, the Bahraini foreign minister said a dialog is curently taking place inside Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to define the form of democracy and the method of popular participation in government.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak said: Naturally, we are striving toward improvement in every sphere. But I ask, why all this concentration on democracy in the Gulf? We believe that democracy is a fundamental and vital issue, and we are taking steps to achieve it. But why doesn't this concentration on democracy include other Arab states since their political experience as independent states is greater than ours? Does this mean that the Gulf area is expected to lead in everything, in development, political action, joint coordination and also in democracy? The Gulf area is carrying out its responsibilities as well as it can, but it would be wrong to make the Gulf countries shoulder the responsibility for everything, particularly as many of them have only recently become independent.

The Bahraini foreign minister said: The dangers facing the countries of the region are external and not internal. It is natural for any state to face some domestic problems linked to its economic and political development. Bahrain and the other countries in the region have been developing at a record rate. In the last 2 decades the region has achieved great economic progress, a progress that should be accompanied by political and parliamentary development.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak said: Let us be frank and objective. The external danger and international challenges facing the Gulf area are now probably greater than those in any other part of the world. The Gulf's security is founded on two bases: political and military. It is impossible to separate one from the other, because security is linked to both. Of course, there can be no security without military strength.

Hence, military coordination is necessary and vital for consolidating regional security. Bahrain's security is part of the Gulf's security. Bilateral military coordination is currently taking place. What is important is that we should seriously embark on such coordination and rise above the sensitivities created in our minds by some connotations of the words alliance and pacts. We are facing external threats and international dangers that are not insignificant. We should not lose ourselves in the labyrinths of hypotheses by asking for whom and against whom Gulf security is being maintained. We should not fall captive to fear or be apprehensive about using words that evoke the concept of pacts, alliances or blocs. We are in great need of military coordination among the Gulf countries within the framework of the Arab joint defense agreement against any external threat, whatever its form or source. This is the gist of the military aspect of the Gulf's security: real coordination among the Gulf states within the framework of the Arab League Charter against all external threats. This is actually occurring at the present time. I am talking about it from the point of principle. The form and content is the responsibility of Gulf military experts.

The Bahraini foreign minister said: The Gulf countries must formulate a common strategy that stems from a united stand, thinking and joint treatment of the issue of confronting any external threat. Such a common strategy must be based on the following principles:

1. To protect the area by relying on its intrinsic strength and not relying on one international camp against the other. This is designed to avoid the policy of polarization and keep the region far from the arena of international conflicts.
2. To deal with countries on the basis of mutual and common interests.
3. To assure all countries that the Gulf states are capable of safeguarding international economic interests by insuring the continued flow of oil and selling it on the basis of supply and demand. This serves the interests of both the Gulf states and all other countries on an equal basis.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak added: Bahrain welcomes the call to increase Arab cooperation with Europe. It is currently being said that the Arab world and Europe can become a third international power founded on the bases of complementary economies.

The Bahraini foreign minister praised the efforts for political coordination between Kuwait and Bahrain. He said this coordination is taking place daily and is a model for cooperation among Gulf states in adopting united stands on all current issues. Referring to the failure of the Bahraini-Kuwaiti joint ministerial committee to meet so far, he said: It is undoubtedly necessary for the committee to meet as a formal framework to followup bilateral cooperation. However, daily contacts and cooperation have gone beyond the committee stage to the stage of effective action and joint coordination.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak declared: I believe that President as-Sadat's talks in Washington will not yield any results. There was never any hope for the self-rule talks. This is because the Camp David accords are a separate solution and will not bring about a comprehensive solution to the problem. Therefore, hopes are now being pinned on three fundamental factors: joint Arab action, a European initiative and Palestinian action on the international level.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS ESTABLISHMENT OF 'RESPONSIBLE TRADE UNIONS'

GF121008 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 12-18 Apr 80 p 35

[Text] Workers' delegates to the Arab labour conference in Baghdad last month obtained approval for their proposal that the freedom of association convention should be referred to all Arab states for ratification. Bahrain's move towards the progressive establishment of trade unions, through joint consultative committees and plant unions, is thus in line with Arab labour policy.

In written answers to a number of questions from the GULF MIRROR on the development of labour representation in Bahrain, Minister of [Labor and Social Affairs] Shaykh 'Isa Ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah made the following points:

"The establishment of responsible trade unions is the aim of approved policy, but subject to two conditions. "These are that such organisations of workers shall confine their lawful role to prescribed trade union function which exclude involvement in political activities, and that their establishment shall be preceded by the progressive introduction of worker education programmes as a prerequisite to the emergence of competent leadership capable of fulfilling their obligations and responsibilities effectively."

Verbally, the minister added it was not forbidden to hold political beliefs, but labour and political activities should not be mixed together.

Q: Is participation in joint consultative committees restricted to Bahraini employees, and if so, is this the pattern for the future development of trade unions?

A: It may be that in certain instances, formal participation is restricted to Bahraini employees. But the natural development of voluntary machinery for effective communication and joint consultation varies from the formal to the informal and is adapted to the nature, size and organisational complexity of the establishment concerned, and to the various interest groups of the work force at the level of the individual undertaking.

Joint consultative committees are already established at BAPCO, ALBA [Aluminum Company of Bahrain], cable and wireless, BP and Bahrain Slipway. The minister said it was now intended to formalise consultation in ASRY, Gulf Air and BAS.

Whatever pattern involves for the development of trade union participation in joint consultative machinery, as distinct from joint bargaining procedures, would be for mutual discussion by the interest groups immediately involved; namely, the representative trade union, the workers and the employer concerned.

Q: Are joint consultative committees permitted among government employees?

A: The provisions of the labour law for the private sector 1976, are not applicable to "appointed officials and employees of the government... (Article 2) whose terms and conditions of employment are prescribed by civil service regulations...." The extension of formal joint consultation to the civil service is yet for decision.

Q: Will trade union supercede joint consultative committees?

A: Joint consultative machinery is not a substitute for the registered trade unions and in no way does it derogate from the right to freedom of association, or cause prejudice to freely chosen workers' representatives, or to the accredited organisations representative of the workers, who shall decide democratically their representation on such joint consultative committees.

Q: How long before a trade union law is introduced in Bahrain?

A: It is not possible, at this juncture, to determine a time-frame, but the issue is of primary concern as approved policy. (The minister said his personal hope was that this could be accomplished by the mid-80's.)

Q: How do you interpret "freedom of expression within the law" in such a way as to reassure labour spokesmen that they run no risk of arrest as trouble-makers?

A: Labour spokesmen run no risk of arrest provided they observe the provisions of trade union legislation and the criminal code, when they will be assured of the protection of the courts of Bahrain.

Q: Since striking is an offence under the penal code, what bargaining power is available to the workforce?

A: The aim of approved labour policy is to avoid conflict, by ensuring the prompt and peaceful settlement of collective labour disputes, through the medium of informal mediation and by statutory conciliation and arbitration as prescribed by Chapter 16 of the labour law. This avoids recourse to precipitate stoppages of work and damage to the national interests of the people of Bahrain.

DONATIONS COLLECTED FOR AFGHAN REBELS

GF120833 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 12 Apr 80 p 5

[Text] A campaign is being launched in Bahrain to collect donations for Muslims fighting the Russian troops who have taken over Afghanistan. Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Khalid Al Khalifah, the justice minister and chairman of the committee set up to collect donations, said some support had already been sent to the Muslim.

AS-SADAT INTERVIEWED BY AUSTRALIAN TELEVISION

NC151220 Cairo MENA in English 1142 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Cairo, April 15 (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat said one of the most important achievements he is proud of is that Egypt returned to its roots and that Egypt's glory lies in its faith and technology, noting that he is always linking faith with technology because technology alone is destruction.

He added that part of these achievements is peace with Israel and that there will be no more wars. The October war is the last war.

President as-Sadat noted that the Arab man in the street is just like the Arab man in Egypt. They want peace. He noted that Egypt does not antagonise the Arab brothers but does not accept conspiracies. Egypt, he affirmed can live and remain without the conspirators, but they without Egypt equal zero.

This was included in President as-Sadat's interview with Ryan Leizly, correspondent of Australian television.

President as-Sadat expounded Egypt's established stand and its insistence to maintain just and comprehensive peace. He underlined his speculations to achieve this objective. He also spoke of Egypt, the revolution and his role before and after the revolution and the achievements realised since he assumed power. He also dealt with the role of women in Egypt and Egypt's relations with the Arab brothers and other states.

Following is the text of the interview:

Question: Mr President, here you are the president of Egypt. But once [you were] a peasant boy running, I think, barefooted through the streets of a small village, Mit Abu al-Kawm. Is there something of that peasant boy in you now?

Answer: I think it is still there and it will continue. For instance, I am staying in a place near Cairo called the Barrages. This is the place of my permanent stay. The Barrages is half country and half city. And because I was brought up in a village and I used to look at an evergreen area up to the horizon, I cannot stay in rooms. I do not like to work in rooms. I always prefer outdoors.

So I have chosen this place. It is seven minutes from Cairo, but still it is part of the country, not the city. And I think this was because of the village and my bringing up there--to see the evergreen area up to the horizon.

Question: With your love of the land, the earth, could this possibly clash now with your role as president, the man who must be so much of his time indoors, in air planes, facing meetings. Is this something you missed?

Answer: Right, I missed a lot. For instance, it is a very great problem. Maybe other presidents would like to sit in palaces and rule from certain residences or so. Here in this country, we have the most beautiful palaces in the whole world that were built by the king. But whenever I go there, I feel imprisoned, really.

Comment by interviewer: You are happier in your little village than in a palace built for the king.

Answer: Quite right, today after our meeting here I shall be meeting with my party and then I shall be proceeding to Mit Abu al-Kawm. I like to go there from time to time. I feel at home there. In the palaces, in the city, I feel lost.

Question: You said that to be a simple peasant was enough to make you the happiest man. You are now president. Does that mean that perhaps at times you are not happy?

Answer: Yes, there are lots of times when I am not happy at all. Especially, it is not my way to deal with details. I do not like details. I always like the broadlines. So lots of times came when I was very unhappy as president. For instance when I was elected president in 1970, ten years ago, and I had a look at the situation at home and around us I found that before the whole world we were defeated, humiliated. This did not cause any unhappiness to me. On the contrary, it awakened the spirit of challenge in me. But what really made me unhappy is that certain elements in the country here started to attack me, specially the communists. I tried to tell them that I am not a man of the media, every day giving a story or headlines for the newspapers.

No. I am a villager, and a villager, you know, is, to a certain extent, a conservative aiming at mending the whole thing as a package.

For instance: The defeat in the 1967 war plus the deterioration in services, plus lots of problems, plus the rise in population here every year.

It is one of the highest population growth rates in the whole world. Can you imagine that we increase at the rate of one million every ten months, not in one year, but just ten months. The thing which made me unhappy really was that some sections in my country did not understand me while I was starting the reconstruction of the Egyptian family again because it had been shattered.

Comment by interviewer: Some had said, I think, you wanted to leave the country.

Answer: No, no, no. This was during 1953 seven or eight months after we started our revolution. This was in the spring of 1953 and it was because there had been a great conflict between me and the head of the Revolution Council. According to our law, on which we had said that whoever felt after the revolution that he was not ready to continue with us, he should not stay in the country, he should leave the country. It was according to this law, to which we had bound ourselves, even before the revolution started. But on the contrary, whenever there is a challenge I shall rise to face it even if I were on my death bed.

Question: Mr President, can I take you back, I think even more than thirty years.

Answer: Yes.

Question: I think in history you will be remembered not only as a president of peace, a president of Egypt, but as a revolutionary man, if you pardon me, a man who resorted to violence to achieve his aims for the independence of Egypt.

Answer: Right, right, I am not ashamed of this at all. Whenever I meet, you know, every year, there is a meeting between me and the Supreme Council of our judicial system. Do you know where I meet them? I meet them in the room where free judges tried me for more than eight continuous months. I was supposed to be hanged at that time, because number one agent of the British here was assassinated and I was number one accused. So whenever I go there every year and visit the room where the free judges tried me there in the court, I feel very happy.

Question: It is difficult to say that a man who espouses peace is a man who had resorted to violence. Is there any contradiction?

Answer: Not at all, not at all. Let me give you another example. I started the October War against the will of the two superpowers. You remember in the first detente declaration in Moscow 1972. It was stated that there should be a military relaxation in the Middle East. At that time, when the Soviet Union signed this with Nixon, we were twenty steps behind Israel and if we had agreed with that military relaxation, this would have meant surrendering to Israel.

Comment by interviewer: So you saw war as the only way out.

Answer: It was the only alternative to peace that I chose. It was really imposed upon me, because Israel, following our defeat and because of the dimensions of the defeat of 1967, became much more arrogant and they believed that we are a corpse and that we shall never be of any significance, militarily or politically, in the next fifty years. This was said by their foreign minister to Kissinger two days before the October War. So it was imposed on me. But if I were to choose, I made my first initiative a few months after I became president and that was in February 1971. Israel never heeded that initiative. The United States also never heeded it.

Question: So if Anwar Sadat is pushed into a corner, he will fight back?

Answer: I have just told you and I say again that if I were on my death bed and there was a challenge, I would for sure rise to face it.

Comment by interviewer: You are a man of peace, yet you can be a man of war.

Answer: That is right.

Question: For six years, I think, you went to jail. You spent two more years in solitary confinement in the Cairo central jail. You had no books and no friends, but solitary confinement. Yet you said it was the happiest period of your life. How can that be?

Answer: Let me tell you this. I spent 31 months in a cell. In the first year and a half, they did not provide me with books or our newspapers or anything at all. You cannot imagine and I cannot describe the pain that anyone feels in such a position, especially when this man was living his life very wide before he entered prison. After that, they permitted us to receive papers, books and I started reading. I did a lot of reading and most of myself I found in prison after this concentrated reading.

Comment by interviewer: You found yourself. You knew where you were going.

Answer: I knew who I am first, and what do I want. Maybe no one can find this in ordinary life in this civilisation that we are living in with its problems that face everyone, every day. But in prison I found the time. It was not the whole time in the cell that was the most precious moments I lived. It was only the last six months.

Question: Do you think you could not be the way you are now, the president of Egypt, if you had not spent that time in jail, if you had not suffered so much?

Answer: I must tell you that this had a big share in forming my personality, my views, my experience.

Comment by interviewer: It also left you with a very definite attitude towards prisons. As soon as you became president, you destroyed, you pulled down a lot of prisons, including the one you were in.

Answer: This one I pulled down. I visited it before that and I took my family with me and showed them the cell.

Question: How do you think we should treat prisoners?

Answer: They should not be treated the way they had been treated before. You know, our prisons were built on the model of British prisons. They were built during the British occupation. But what they applied in our prisons they did not apply in their prisons in Britain, because everyone there had his human rights. But in this country, it was supposed to be a colony, we were supposed to be second-rate citizens in this world or so, that need to be punished or so, for that the regulations for the prisoners were very severe. For instance, no smoking. Nothing from the outside world.

Question: So you have changed all that.

Answer: I changed everything. Now they watch television. Now they work in the open air, now they do their share in producing food for the country, for themselves and for the country also.

Comment by interviewer: So there must be punishment for the crimes, but there must also be humanitarian treatment.

Answer: That is right.

Question: Whom do you see today as a most impressive world leader, the most impressive statesman?

Answer: Well, I have seen many in my time. I must say that I have had a great experience that I cherish really because I learned from everyone that I dealt with from among the presidents of the world. For instance Nehru, Khrushchev of Russia, Tito of Yugoslavia, the late King Faysal of Saudi Arabia, Carter, Schmidt of West Germany. Schmidt is a wonderful man. I think Schmidt is the most cultured statesman I have ever met and I have dealt with many.

Question: So it is hard to select.

Answer: Quite right, because everyone has advantages and disadvantages. We are human beings, I mean.

Question: You did not mention in this list Menahem Begin, the prime minister of Israel.

Answer: Yes, yes I have dealings with him. Menahem Begin is my friend, for sure, but you asked me about those I consider or have dealt with. The whole experience with Menahem Begin is still continuing. I cannot tell until the end of it; we are just in the middle of it.

Question: You have yet to see your friendship as a lasting one?

Answer: Yes, we are friends. This is a fact.

Question: Sir, your country, Egypt, is an Islamic state, but there seem to be big differences between Egypt and other Muslim countries. For instance, in your attitude toward women. Here you say women do not have to cover their faces, they do not have to walk behind their men. They wear Western clothes. This does not seem to be the way of the Muslim world.

Answer: They are much more advanced than lots of the women in the West, including yours, because until this moment you did not give equal wages. We have here equal wages. We have another advantage: Every woman here has got the full responsibility on any fortune she has, not her husband.

Question: You are saying your girls and women here are more liberated than Australian girls.

Answer: That is right and we have a woman who is occupying a ministerial post and another woman who is ambassador. My ambassador to Denmark has a Ph.D. in law, Dr 'Rishah Ratib. Women are in different fields: engineers, doctors, teachers. In the university faculties, one-third of the students are girls.

Question: Certainly your women are more liberated than other Arab women and Iran.

Answer: There are various reasons for this. We are completely different, not only from the Arab world but from the area we live in, and may be different from most of the places in Africa, Asia and Latin America also.

Question: So would you attribute this in part to the work of your wife, Jihan as-Sadat? She seems to be a women's liberationist.

Answer: Well, it has started very long, very long ago, even before my wife was born. There are many reasons for this. Number one, Egypt is the oldest country in the whole world. The women's movement started here long before I came and even before my wife was born, because we have the heritage of seven thousand years and the first civilisation in the whole world, the first government in the whole world, the first state in the whole world. All this has accumulated a heritage behind every man and woman in Egypt. That is why we are completely different.

When Islam came here, Islam came as the last touch, but before that Egypt was civilised and has given the world its civilisation. More than that, since the 19th century we had our connection with Europe, for instance, France since the start of 19th century. Lots of Egyptians had degrees from France in law and various activities. For that the woman is just like any woman in the Western world but plus the Islamic traditions.

I am conservative, but not in the way a wife is described, a harem or so. Not at all. But I am very conservative in applying the traditions of the Egyptian family here that lasted more than seven thousand years. In this tradition we consider the woman is the base of the family and she should be obedient to her husband and she should in certain moments rise above any failings or weaknesses in the man. We want always our women to be natural in everything. The man in our tradition can be weak, the man can have vices, the man as a human being can make errors or so, but we do not like our women to do this. This is my view as conservative and in Islam because my main culture is Islam.

Question: When we look at the world today there seem to be many areas which threaten our world life, all countries. Where do you see the greatest threat to world peace coming from now?

Answer: It is the Gulf now.

Question: Here in the Middle East?

Answer: The Middle East. It was the Arab-Israeli conflict, but now it is the Gulf conflict between the dreams of the Soviets to reach the warm waters and your Western civilization that is threatened, because whenever energy [as received] stops from providing Europe with the energy necessary for the factories and the tools of your civilisation, everything will collapse.

Question: You seem to tie it down I think to the Soviet Union, to their intervention in Afghanistan.

Answer: Quite right, before Afghanistan it was also the Soviet Union having the same policy of the tsars. It did not change after the communist rule. It is reaching the warm waters. It was like that under the tsars and it is now under the communists, just like Hitler.

Question: You say the Soviets are as much dangerous to the world as Hitler was.

Answer: Much more, much more dangerous.

Question: Very strong words, sir.

[Answer] President as-Sadat repeated emphatically, saying: "Much more dangerous, much more dangerous." [sentence as received]

I am not saying this because I am anticommunist or so. No, I have dealt with the Soviets more than twenty continuous years and the day came when, really, believe me, everything in this country was in their hands. The economy, the only source which provided me with arms because I wanted to get rid of the humiliation of the defeat of 67.

Question: And you threw them out.

Answer: But the moment came before even I started the October war, one year before the October war and I sent 17,000 experts out of the country in just one week.

I reached this decision because in dealing with them they were very vicious, corrupt and immoral. And then there is something sentimental in this also. One day I was in West Berlin; they made arrangements for me to visit East Berlin. The moment I passed the gate between West Berlin and East Berlin--we were early in the morning--I found a very old lady who had exactly the features of my grandmother, to whom I owe everything in my life. And she was sweeping the streets at a very early hour and she was just exactly like my grandmother, and when I asked why should an old lady like this sweep the streets at this very early hour of the morning, they said: Well this is the communist doctrine that those who do not work could not eat, something like that. Believe me since that moment I felt really the whole thing repulsive because for me if my grandmother was now alive, believe me I would have done everything in the whole world to provide her with security, with dignity, with everything, not to wake at a very early hour in the morning to sweep the streets. Soviets are very vicious.

Question: Let us turn from the Soviets to Islam itself. Some people would say that the danger to the world comes from Islamic resurgence, and they point to Iran, Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Answer: This is really a very distressing thing for me and I hope you have heard me say shame on my fellow colleagues in the Muslim world who did not, like me, say that this is not Islam in Iran. This is not an Islamic revolution. This is a Khomeyniite revolution. Islam teaches brotherhood and love. Islam teaches us. In the Koran the Lord ordered us that to be true and faithful you must recognize Moses, Christ and Muhammad. I was secretary general of the Islamic Conference at one time for five years. And I visited several countries, from Indonesia in the extreme east to Morocco in the extreme west and all the Muslim countries, and as I told you my basic culture is Islam.

Question: But sir, to be fair to Khomeyni, he is a man like you who suffered a lot and he struggled for the independence of his country, to free his country from outside control.

Answer: Then he should not condemn Islam like this. He should say that we have suffered so and so under the shah. I can understand him. I am not against the revolution in Iran at all, they have the full right because we have made our revolution here. But what Khomeyni is doing now in Iran is hatred and this is not in Islam. This is completely against Islam because Islam is teaching love.

Question: You said you cannot hate a man, even your enemy.

Answer: That is right.

Question: Is it possible, when your enemy threatens to take away your very livelihood?

Answer: In prison, believe me I found that hatred is something that brings destruction to human beings inside and outside. Hatred is destruction. For this reason Islam is one hundred per cent against hatred. What Khomeyni is doing is preaching: hate, hate every day.

Question: Mr President, if you are to say what your greatest achievement was or what would you like to achieve most of all, could that be peace with Israel?

Answer: Part of it. What I am proud of now of my achievements is that Egypt has returned to its roots. The Egyptian family has returned to its roots. That is what I fought for for ten years continuously, and I am still fighting for now.

Question: The dignity of Egypt, more than peace with Israel, perhaps is more important to you.

Answer: The dignity and the building of Egypt with faith and the use of the latest technology--because I always put faith with technology. Technology without faith is destruction.

Question: Sir will the Camp David agreement work? Do you see this as lasting and are you happy the way it is turning out?

Answer: For sure, let me tell you this. First of all I have always said that the Camp David agreements form the cornerstone for the comprehensive settlement. Then come and look with me if you could have asked me two years before that what has taken place will take place in the next two years. I could have never believed you. What has happened since my initiative to Jerusalem, we had the Camp David agreement. We had the treaty between Egypt and Israel. Israel handed over eighty percent of Sinai and the twenty percent will be handed in two years. Peace prevailed between Egypt and Israel and the greatest achievement above all is that there will be no war after the October war.

Question: But sir, you still do not have settlement on the West Bank, autonomy for the Palestinians, and Israel seems to be very stubborn on this point.

Answer: They have been very stubborn with me before Camp David--much more stubborn than this--and we have overcome all this. I think we shall overcome this.

Question: Is it possible that Arabs and Jews can both live together, govern together in Palestine?

Answer: They have lived together but let me tell you this, whenever the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip form their state I am sure that they can live together.

Question: And govern and rule together?

Answer: No, no. Israel should not rule in the West Bank and Gaza, just like the Palestinians should not rule in Israel. I am not asking the privilege of one for the other. The Israelis should rule in Israel. The Palestinians should rule in West Bank and Gaza Strip. But they can live together because they have lived lots of time together.

Question: But you are saying that the West Bank and Palestine is for Egypt and not for Israel.

Answer: I beg your pardon?

Question: You said that the West Bank and Palestine is for Egypt.

[Answer]: No, and with a strong tone added: "For Egypt to do what, to what, to do what?" [sentence as received]

Question: To rule.

[Answer]: As-Sadat strongly and decisively stressed: "Not at all, never, never, never. In Camp David even, you know, even before Israel seized the Gaza Strip it was under the Egyptian administration. West Bank was under the Jordanian administration. Well, despite this I did not take any responsibility in Gaza. I gave it to King Husayn when we agreed in Camp David about the full autonomy and that this full autonomy will form its police."

The Palestinians will form their police; [it is] stated in Camp David that this police may include Jordanians. We did not say Egyptians in Gaza or the West Bank. I insisted that Egyptians will have nothing to do with the Palestinian lands. It is for the Palestinians to decide their fate.

Question: You once said that without Jimmy Carter, President Carter, the Camp David agreement could never have been possible. Carter has been accused of lacking in strength, of being a weak man, but how do you see him?

Answer: Let me tell you this. I always really feel very sad when I meet with Americans--and lots of them come always here in Egypt and meet with me--when they describe their President like this. You know Jimmy Carter is a dear friend. I have known him now as a friend and we have dealt together in politics and we have started together the solution of one of the most difficult problems that our world has ever met with, this is the Arab-Israeli conflict. Let me tell you this: Carter is not a man of the media. He could have been a man of the media but he is a very strong man inside and let me give you an example. When the situation escalated in the Iranian problem the man took the necessary decisions drastically and with great statesmanship.

When the Afghanistan invasion by the Soviet Union took place the man until this moment is standing very firm, he is a man of situation not a man of the media. Whenever a situation arises the man faces his responsibilities and he is really a man of great strength from inside, not from outside.

Question: Sir, does peace between Israel and Egypt depend on Jimmy Carter being reelected as President of the United States?

Answer: Not at all, not at all. It depends upon the role of the United States whoever the President is.

Question: Would the U.S. help in this respect?

Answer: Yes, yes, yes of course, even after my initiative we could not have reached the Camp David or the treaty between Egypt and Israel or we could not have achieved this great achievement in the last two years without the United States.

Question: Then when you made your historical journey to Israel in November 1977 do you think you took a great personal risk?

Answer: When I returned from Jerusalem and I passed through the streets of Cairo I had the vice president beside me in the car. I told him something has happened to my people; I have never seen my people like this even in the most glorious days of the 23rd of July revolution twenty seven years ago when I spoke over the radio and announced that the revolution had been launched.

Question: You have said that one of the finest Egyptian leaders was Zahran...

Answer: Zahran was a villager. In my childhood when I heard his story from my mother or grandmother I always tried to picture myself as Zahran. Let us leave this to the generations to decide on the role I played but I am very satisfied.

Question: Sir, you might have made friends of the Israelis but you certainly have made enemies in the Arab world--enemies who could threaten the security of Egypt and your own safety. Does it concern you that while you have made friends of Israel you made an enemy of your Arab brothers?

Answer: Let me tell you this. There is a truth in what you said but let us say this. I have made an enemy of certain Arab leaders, not the Arab man in the street. The Arab man in the street is just like the Egyptian man here, in the street. They want peace. No one wants his children to go to war, to be killed. Be sure of that. Leaders, yes, and they have conspired against Egypt and against me. Against me I never heed it, but against Egypt this is something completely different. They tried last year to shake us economically and thanks to God, last year we not only liberated eighty percent of Sinai but we have made great achievements, that we have liberated our economy from any Arab aid or so.

Question: Are you fully confident if you do isolate Egypt from these certain Arab leaders that Egypt can survive economically?

Answer: Let me correct you and say that they have isolated themselves. They did not isolate me. For instance, look what has taken place since they severed relations with me and what is the situation in the Arab world and what is the situation in Egypt. Egypt can survive without them and can reach the stars.

But without Egypt the Arabs are zero. Now every Arab country in the year after they severed relations with Egypt as I told you they isolated themselves and they started quarreling among each other, Morocco with Algeria over the Sahara, Morocco with Algeria and Libya with other Arabs, Syria with Iraq, South Yemen with North Yemen, Saudi Arabia with others, Iraq with Iran and most of the other Gulf states. It is a chaos. Why? Because Egypt has always been the brain from this place until this moment. For instance two days ago I was with the doctors celebrating "Doctors Day" held by the doctors syndicate. Do you know the number of the Egyptian doctors in the Arab world? Well, twelve thousand doctors.

There are also teachers, engineers, workers, everything. Egypt is the mind and heart of the Arab world and for the next generations to come they will never catch up with Egypt and it is not oil that builds Egypt, no. The fortune of Egypt is not like Saudi Arabia and the others, it is here a complete economy of agriculture, industry, assets, all this. And the biggest asset in Egypt is the human being, the Egyptian man, who is a doctor, engineer, labourer, teacher, with thirteen universities here and with pride and heritage of seven thousand years.

Question: Thank you, Mr. President.

BAGHDAD IN PERSIAN BROADCASTS 8-12 APR REVIEWED

NC152025 [Editorial Report] Baghdad in Persian to Iran from 8 through 12 April broadcasts its normal programming except that the segment devoted to the life of Iranian martyrs ends on 8 April with a dedication to the life and works of martyr Mehdi Reza'i.

On 8 April the "Glimpse at Events" program carries a talk saying that Khomeyni cannot solve his domestic problems by exporting crises and by subversive acts. Referring to an incident at Al-Mustansiriyyah University, the talk discusses the progress achieved in Iraq--a thorn in the side of Khomeyni's regime--and concludes that Khomeyni and his masters cannot understand that their crimes can only strengthen the Iraqi people's support for liberty and for their leader.

On 9 April the same program broadcasts the text of an INA commentary on Baghdad bombing incidents.

On 10 April a talk criticizes Khomeyni and "his thirst for blood, which has not been quenched yet by the blood he has caused to be shed in Kordestan, Arabistan, Azarbayjan and Torkaman Sahra." Discussing how Khomeyni's regime is resorting to making scenes with neighbors, thinking that it can halt the progress of the Iraqi Government, the talk concludes by saying that the Iranian people are well aware that Iraq is their most sincere neighbor in their "struggle to free themselves from this satanic regime." Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh is strongly attacked in an 11 April broadcast. He is said to be "notorious on the international scene for his strong links with imperialist organizations and is considered a spy and lackey who receives funds from more than one source." The threatening remarks he makes are, it is said, "on behalf of his masters who make deposits to his accounts in Switzerland, West Germany, Washington and London." "All respectable people of Iran" are urged "to determine their positions against the non-Muslim regime of Khomeyni, to make the slogan of 'national liberty' their main slogan and to make their fundamental goal the overthrow of Khomeyni's regime."

A 12 April talk says that while Khomeyni pretends to support the Palestinian cause, he has welcomed back the Jews who left Iran after the revolution and who are now returning--this, according to an article quoting HA'ARETZ and published on page 6 of the MIDDLE EAST magazine of 5 April. Khomeyni, it is charged, is thus opening the doors to the enemies of the Arabs and "undoubtedly the Zionists whom the 'Muslim' Khomeyni warmly welcomed back to Iran once again to form a fifth column against the Iranian people; they are considered to be a reserve force for the Zionist enemies who, when necessary, will strengthen them with funds, arms and personnel. Probably Khomeyni's regime, as usual, will deny the clear truth and will continue fabrications and baseless claims on alleged assistance to the Palestinian cause."

On 8 April the "Glimpse at Events" program is followed by a purported announcement by the Cherikha-ye Feda'i-ye Khalq, Tabriz branch, strongly criticizing Tabriz Prosecutor General Musavi.

The letters section on 8 April carries a letter from a listener in Sanandaj who writes that "the clergy, who until yesterday were nothing but beggars and who do not have the slightest idea about Islam and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad, are now important people and government officials, doctors, politicians and hojjat ol-Eslams, all under the auspices of Khomeyni." He ends his letter by saying: "Looking forward to the day when the struggles of the brave Iranian people will be victorious and when a pseudoclergyman hangs from each electricity pole in Iran--God willing."

On the same day, a listener from Birjand Asks: "How many years of education does a shaykh have or how much does he have to know to qualify as minister of war and defense?" He asks the Radio Baghdad employees to go to the holy Mosque of Prophet 'Ali and "to pray on behalf of the oppressed Iranian nation for our delivery by Prophet 'Ali from the claws of these murderers." Another listener writes: "You who are behind a free tribune, tell the world that Iranian people are dying of hunger even though they are on an ocean of oil."

On 9 April a woman from Tabriz writes: "Radios like the BBC, the West German radio and the VOA broadcast lies; you are the only ones to broadcast the truth. Another girl from Siahkal writes: Khomeyni says that this is Islam: "Were we not Muslims before? Did we not pray? Did we not fast? Did we not know God? Do we know him now?" She adds: "The sorcerer Khomeyni is destroying Iran. If he is the 13th imam as he claims to be then let him take off his ring and come to the streets with us to struggle, not kill the youths and say that they were martyred and will go to paradise." In another part she writes: "This executioner Khomeyni is not a Muslim, but more infidel than an infidel. He says: 'mobilize'. With what? With onions and potatoes? These are very expensive too. A worker in Abu Dhabi writes: "I do not listen to Radio Iran at all" and "it seems that the BBC has been receiving bribes from Khomeyni because it always supports him."

A listener from Talesh writes on 10 April to thank Radio Baghdad for broadcasting Iranian songs. "We watch all the Baghdad television programs. If possible, please broadcast some Persian language TV programs." A listener from Ahar writes: "In addition to stifling the Iranian people, this dictator Khomeyni is also threatening the high marja' of the Shi'ites--Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari. After 16 years of wandering around, Khomeyni has now come and anointed himself the 13th imam and calls Shari'at-Madari a mullah. If Shari'at-Madari is a mere mullah, Khomeyni is not even worthy of being a theological student." A student from Quchan writes: "May God not forgive me for casting a 'yes' vote to the so-called Islamic Republic; I am so fed up with this regime and its acts that I want to throw each and every shaykh in Iran into the sea, hoping to be free from them." He goes on to complain about the shortages, adding: "Every day our President Mr Bani-Harf [one who talks too much and does nothing] comes and says: 'Do not worry, everything will be all right.' When? God only knows." The writer complains about the lack of radio and television programs in Iran and writes: "The radio and television sets in Iran are full of cobwebs because of lack of programs."

A listener from Karaj writes: "If I find 280 to 300 people supporting my opinion I will start an open war against this bloodthirsty American regime, even if it costs my life. I know that you are aware of the oppression in Iran--worse than that during Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's regime. But you know that an ominous silence is over Iran and you know that this regime's oppression has made the hidden rage of this nation reach its peak."

On 11 April a listener from Rasht writes: "I am really surprised that God has sent us such a talented imam. He has talents in stealing, writing posters, lying, murder and so on and so forth. He has also chosen associates who are as talented as he is."

A listener from Paveh cites an incident which took place during Mordad [month ending 22 August] when "executioner guards of Khomeyni, who consider themselves soldiers of the Prophet," attacked the city. Since the Kurdish peshmerga killed 120 guards, "mad Khalkhali" came to Paveh and sentenced to death 35 Kurdish youths whom he chopped up with a chopping knife. A writer from Zabol writes: "This idolatrous Khomeyni destroyed Ayatollah Taleqani, who was a true Muslim, and then announced on the radio that he had died of a stroke. He ordered that Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari's home be attacked and that he be killed. But fortunately he was saved. Since the day this old satan arrived in our country, a part of Iran has been destroyed by floods, and earthquakes have hit the Khorassan area many times."

On 12 April a listener from Tehran complains about shortages in Iran: "Mr. Bani-Harf, who is the president of Iran, says 'You should bear this.' He says: 'We had a revolution and have to bear hardships.'" A teacher from Shirvan writes: "You do not know what is happening in villages around Shirvan--leprosy, tuberculosis and thousands of other diseases; hunger and lack of money; lack of medicine and primary goods." Another listener from Gonbad-e Kavus writes that when the regime announced that 8 February would be celebrated as the anniversary of the Islamic revolution, I told the people: "Oppressed people, wake up, this is the anniversary of the day when the vegetable shortening which you previously bought at 29 toman became 110 toman--of course it you can find it at 110 toman." A listener from Arak writes: "I am 61. As hard as I think, since I was 16 neither can I recall nor have I heard anyone speak of an Islam such as that which his excellency the big bear has introduced." A writer from Amol complains: "Our people are afraid to revolt against this regime of oppression and corruption lest they become infidels, because the idol Khomeyni has become an imam and the people are afraid to revolt, lest they burn in Hell." He says that the regime, which consists of people "each one of whom is a bigger thief and traitor than the other," can only say: "We got 99 percent of the votes." Then Bani-Sadr, what about the 13 million who did not vote because they did not meet the conditions? Were they foreigners?"

On 8 April the press review quotes an article from ATH-THAWRAH, entitled "What Motives Have Placed Khomeyni's Troops on Alert?" as well as an article from AL-JUMHURIYAH, "The Mercenary Regime of Iran and Playing With Fire."

The following items were broadcast in the press review: 9 April, an article from ATH-THAWRAH discussing reasons for plots hatched by Iran against Iraq's revolution; 10 April, on the severance of Iran-U.S. ties, calling this a "new game for the implementation of aggressive plans"; 11 April, AL-JUMHURIYAH discussing how Khomeyni helps the United States implement its sly plans and criticizing Qotbzadeh; and 12 April, an article from AL-JUMHURIYAH, "Why Do Iranian Leaders Show Enmity Toward Iraq?" All discuss, in general, how Iran's regime is trying to thwart Iraq's revolution.

Talks broadcast during the period include those on the following subjects: 9 April, on Iran's sick economy; 10 April, a discussion of how Khomeyni does not consider the arrest of the shah an important problem but wants to keep this topic alive in order to be able to pretend that he is anti-American; 11 April, how Khomeyni and Bani-Sadr pretend to be at odds in order to create a smokescreen; and 12 April, how Islam defines a leader and what Khomeyni does.

BUTRUS ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, QOTBZADEH VISIT, ARMY IN SOUTH

NC151603 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] After his meetings today, Foreign and Expatriate Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus said in answer to a question: For us to consider that the Israeli forces which entered Lebanese territory have fully withdrawn, we should first verify this withdrawal through our own means. Thus the United Nations should also announce that it has verified this withdrawal.

Asked whether the Iranian foreign minister will visit Lebanon, Minister Butrus replied: It is possible that he will visit Lebanon during his tour of some Arab states.

The Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut, Mr Javad Gorjani, had earlier met with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Kisrawan Labaki. The two officials discussed the visit to Lebanon of Dr Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the Iranian foreign minister, within his coming Arab tour.

Gorjani said: This tour is likely to begin next week. It might include a number of other Arab states in addition to Lebanon, Syria and Algeria. However, a final date has not been set for this tour.

The foreign minister was asked about his discussions with the Italian ambassador. He answered: The ambassador called on me at the request of his government to inform me that Italy has decided to send four new helicopters to replace those which were recently destroyed during the shelling in the south. Furthermore, Italy will begin to send the new helicopters this week and will take no longer than 3 weeks to complete the delivery. I have thanked the Italian Government for this quick initiative, which we appreciate.

Further Report

NC151920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] In the wake of the contacts we held today, Foreign Minister Butrus called on everyone to work as quickly as possible to insure the conditions for the army to enter the south.

In reply to a question, Minister Butrus said: In the statement I made at the meeting of the joint committees last week, I said that it is imperative for all of us to work to send the army to the south as quickly as possible. I believe that this is a necessary and a very useful measure. However, one should bear in mind that the difficulties that prevent this-- and I do not want to elaborate on these difficulties now. However, I believe that ultimately it is imperative for us to overcome all these difficulties, which are of a political nature. National interest is above political considerations, let alone the fact--in my opinion--that the army's entry into the south would be favorable for the Palestinian cause itself.

He added: As for the progress in preparing for the army to enter the south, I say that I am not the competent minister. Consequently, please excuse my not answering this question.

Minister Butrus was asked: Who, in your opinion, can help in sending the army south? He said: At the Tunis summit conference the Arab League passed a resolution at the highest level. This resolution stresses the need for the army to enter the south and for everyone to facilitate this. Therefore, in my opinion it is imperative for the Arab League to play its role in this respect. If it wants to, and if it makes the states and parties concerned face their responsibilities, the Arab League can play this role.

V. 16 Apr 80

S Y R I A

H 1

VOL: CLASHES CONTINUE IN ALEPPO, LATAKIA

NC151335 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the military operation against the Muslim Brotherhood members continues unabatedly in Aleppo and other towns in northern Syria. Aleppo resembles a garrison town in view of the intensive military measures in and around the town. Helicopters are constantly seen flying over the town; ambulances are also seen making several runs between the town and the field hospitals, which have been set up near the town.

Our correspondent adds that tanks and armored vehicles are intermittently shelling the gunmen's strongholds. Military units are also arresting a number of gunmen opposed to the regime.

In Latakia, the security forces encircled a house and exchanged fire with those holding out inside it. Three Muslim Brotherhood members were reportedly killed in the clash.

AL-ASAD RETURNS FROM TRIPOLI SUMMIT 15 APR

JN152006 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus at 2000 today after participating, in thoughts and efforts, in the fourth session of the summit conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which was held in the city of Tripoli.

TISHRIN COMMENTS ON STEADFASTNESS FRONT CONFERENCE

JN160928 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Apr 80

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "Behind the News" column, the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the fourth conference of the pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation. The paper says: The fourth conference ended in Tripoli and the conference resolutions were made public. What draws attention is that the political assessment of the situation in the area and of the dangers that are threatening the Arab nation and its pan-Arab cause have perhaps been accompanied, in one of the few times when Arab cooperation has been successful, by practical measures whose importance and effect on the dispute between the Arab nation and the imperialist-Zionist enemy exceed all the fiery statements denouncing the conspiracy, condemning the treason and rejecting the fait accompli the enemy is seeking to impose on the Arab nation.

TISHRIN adds: The call to mobilize Arab potential and capabilities for the struggle against the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy is no longer a slogan to be raised only on occasions without achieving any practical change in the equation of establishing a strategic balance with the enemy and wresting the card of pressure which consists of using or threatening to use force from the hands of the Zionist enemy and its protectors, U.S. imperialists.

This call has entered the stage of effective implementation, and the slogan raised by Syria to establish a strategic balance with the enemy after As-Sadat has removed Egypt from the arena of confrontation between Israel and the Arabs, has become the program of action for Arab forces which possess economic, human, political and military capabilities of some weight in the Arab arena and which are committed to the pan-Arab cause.

The harmony that exists among the front's members, their participation in the adoption of decisive stands on basic issues of the Arab struggle with imperialism and Zionism and their commitment to the resolutions of the third conference of the pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation held in Damascus, give the decision to establish the joint military and security force a real basis and guarantees its success and its capability to meet pan-Arab struggle requisites.

The paper further says: The decision to establish a joint military force belonging to the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation is a decision that falls within any country's right to sovereignty and is in harmony with the UN charter which acknowledges regional security measures. This decision aims at increasing the defensive capabilities of the Arab countries which are under constant Israeli threats and large parts of which are under Israeli occupation.

Backed and supported by the United States, Israel has refused to comply with UN resolutions on the Middle East. Israel continues to insist on occupying Arab territories, annexing them by force and refusing to recognize the Palestinian people's national rights. All this has led to an aggravation of the situation in the area and to the possibility of its explosion at any time.

By coordinating their military actions and pooling their potential, the parties of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation are carrying out a necessary defensive act and are taking a measure that will serve current efforts for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the area based on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and its recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

TISHRIN concludes: The Tripoli summit has been a complete success for the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, has fulfilled the Arab masses' wishes and aspirations and has responded to the pan-Arab struggle requisites.

Syria, which has had the honor of raising the slogan of steadfastness and confrontation against the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy, will remain in the vanguard concerning pan-Arab commitment and the implementation of the steps and measures that will provide the pan-Arab struggle with more power and strength to achieve its objective.

TRANSPORT MINISTER RECEIVES BULGARIAN DEPUTY PREMIER

JN151715 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Syrian Minister of Transport Muharram Tayyarah received deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers and Bulgarian Communist Party Politburo candidate member Andrey Karlov Lukanov today. The two sides discussed bilateral transport relations, particularly in the fields of overland and sea transport. They reviewed the possibility of operating a direct sea line between Syrian and Bulgarian seaports and of establishing a joint company for overland and sea transport between the two friendly countries.

V. 16 Apr 80

H 3

SYRIA

Departs 15 Apr

JN152032 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Syrian-Bulgarian economic talks were resumed today at the prime ministry office. The Syrian side was headed by Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, while the Bulgarian side was led by deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers and Bulgarian Communist Party Politburo candidate member Andrey Karlov Lukanov.

The heads of the two sides expressed hope of preparing economic, industrial and scientific protocols that reflect the exemplary dealings between the two countries.

The two sides' technical committee began its work earlier in the morning. It discussed the drafts of bilateral trade, scientific and technical exchange protocols and economic documents in preparation for their signing.

Qaddurah received Andrey Lukanov at 1600 today. They reviewed bilateral economic relations and the various fields of cooperation.

Later, Andrey Karlov Lukanov left Damascus for Sofia this evening. The Bulgarian members of the technical committee remained in Damascus to continue talks with the Syrian committees.

ALGERIAN FLN PARTY DELEGATION DEPARTS 15 APR

JN151305 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Excerpt] Damascus--The Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN] Party delegation under Comrade 'Affan Jilali, FLN Political Bureau member, left Damascus this morning following a 1-week visit to Syria at the invitation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command.

PDRY SUPREME PEOPLE'S COUNCIL CHAIRMAN ARRIVES

JN160654 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium chairman, arrived in Damascus from Tripoli at 2230 yesterday after attending the conference of the pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation.

Isma'il was welcomed at the airport by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; senior Foreign Ministry officials; the PDRY charge d'affaires in Damascus; and the PDRY Embassy staff.

ALGERIA

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN ALGIERS

LD160203 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0001 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca arrived in Algiers last night on an official visit to Algeria. On arrival he stated that his visit is part of the tour he is currently conducting to various countries for the purpose of finding a peaceful solution to the situation in southwest Asia. Malmierca explained that he has visited several states, and in Tripoli was received by President Chadli Bendjedid, [who was attending the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front conference] president of the republic and secretary general of the party, and that he delivered a personal message to him from Cuban President Fidel Castro..

YUGOSLAV CONSTRUCTION DELEGATION VISITS

LD151109 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 2 Apr 80 p 2

[APS report: "A Delegation Visits Project Sites in Jijel"]

[Text] Jijel--A housing and construction delegation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia arrived in Jijel on Monday for preliminary conversations with the authorities of the Wilaya on the implementation of several projects in the region.

The Yugoslav delegation, accompanied by two representatives of the Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Construction, examined with Wilaya officials the details of studies on and the production of 1,000 dwellings and of a certain number of fittings in the Ferdjious and El-Milia Dairas.

During its stay the Yugoslav mission visited the sites where these projects are laid out. Last February a delegation from Jijel Wilaya made a fact-finding visit to Belgrade.

BENDJEDID GREETES IRANIAN LEADERS ON ANNIVERSARY

LD151443 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 3 Apr 80 p 3

APS report: "President Chadli Bendjedid Messages to the Imam Khomeyni and President Bani-Sadr"]

[Text] Algiers--President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and general secretary of the party, sent a message of congratulations to the Imam Ruhollah Khomeyni, leader of the Iranian Revolution, on the occasion of the celebration of the first anniversary of Iran's Islamic revolution.

Here is the text of the message:

"On the occasion of the celebration of the first anniversary of the proclamation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I have great pleasure in sending you my warmest congratulations and the expression of the Algerian people's esteem and respect for the fraternal Iranian people.

"Algeria respectfully greets the historic event which led to the advent of an Islamic society of equality and justice and the strengthening of the progressive and anti-imperialist front.

"On this happy occasion I would also like to restate Algeria's firm intention to work for the deepening of the relations of sincere friendship and fruitful cooperation which bind our two countries and the total solidarity of the Algerian people with the fraternal Iranian people, who are committed to the defense of their revolution and the tasks building the nation.

"I pray to Almighty God to grant you health and vigor to enable you to continue to guide the Iranian Revolution and I wish the fraternal Iranian people well-being and prosperity."

President Chadli Bendjedid also sent a similar message to President Bani-Sadr, as follows:

"As the fraternal Iranian people are celebrating the first anniversary of the proclamation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I have the great pleasure of sending you my fraternal and warm congratulations.

"It pleases me to be able to state on this happy occasion that the deep fraternal relations which link our two countries continue to diversify for the greater good of the Algerian and Iranian peoples.

"Algeria, which has closely and sympathetically followed the Iranian people's combat against tyranny and oppression, expresses its solidarity with the struggle that they are continuing to wage in defense of their revolution and supports their efforts in building the nation.

"Wishing you health, personal happiness and success in the execution of your high office, I express my best wishes for the well-being and prosperity of the fraternal Iranian people."

EDITORIAL CLAIMS ARAB SOLIDARITY WITH IRAN

LD151129 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Apr 80 p 1

[Editorial: "The Iranian People Are Not Alone"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. escalation of the crisis with Tehran was not surprising. It is an implementation of a new stage in a prearranged plan drawn up by U.S. strategists in an area where U.S. influence has diminished since the Iranian people's revolution against a repressive regime that devoted itself to serving the imperialist powers' interests.

If the White House politicians have chosen a specific date to declare their hostile attitude more publicly, it is because of the international situation and U.S. domestic conditions and not because of Khomeyni's decision to leave the U.S. hostages in the students' hands until their fate is decided by the people's representatives after the elections.

Washington's objective from the beginning has been to liquidate and abort the Iranian Revolution, but the Iranian people's impromptu solidarity has forced the U.S. administration to defer the attempt to pounce on the revolution, so that hostility to it does not spread to other countries until now considered friendly.

Also, the attempt to isolate Iran in the area has failed, despite the U.S. intelligence campaign in the Gulf countries to spread terror and fear of an Iranian danger threatening to sweep the area. The Iranian Revolution has proved that it is the Arab nation's natural ally against its ferocious enemies and a support for the peoples' just causes. This stand has thwarted the implementation of hostile U.S. plans.

President Carter's resort to imposing economic blockade on Iran and threatening to use force exposes the falsehood of Washington's previous excuses for not taking retaliatory measures, namely not to endanger the hostages' lives. Those hostages are still in the students' hands, so why is their fate not being taken into consideration today?

Carter, who is fighting an election campaign to extend his stay in the White House, has discovered that accusations of "vacillation and weakness" leveled against him have somewhat lessened following his attitude the question of U.S. hostages in Tehran and the development of events in Afghanistan.

Therefore, his new step is part of his effort to consolidate his position in the current race for the Presidency, since he has discovered that adopting a "hard line" is a winning card, especially in the view of circles which lost major interests in Iran following the Iranian people's revolution, which has begun to liquidate monopolies and vestiges of the defunct regime. The Iranian people, who have been able to stand against the conspiracies being hatched against their revolution in the past year, are today capable of facing the new challenges and attempts to starve and then subjugate them.

If Washington is looking for solidarity among its allies to make its decisions more effective, the Iranian people are not alone on the battlefield, especially because the noble objective they are striving to achieve makes it incumbent on all the justice and peace-loving forces to stand on their side.

LIBYA

PEOPLE REPORTEDLY WELCOME LIBERIAN PRESIDENT'S OUSTER

LD141306 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Apr 80

[Text] The toppling of the Liberian president, William Tolbert, has been received by popular quarters in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with great satisfaction. These quarters described Tolbert's regime as having been archetypal American agent and a hindrance to the liberation and progress of the African Continent.

JALLUD RECEIVES CUBAN AMBASSADOR, CASTRO LETTER

LD142116 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Apr 80

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud today received the Cuban foreign minister who is currently visiting the Jamahiriya. The Cuban minister handed Major Jallud a letter to leader Al-Qadhafi from the Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA ACCUSES LIBYA OF ARMING POLISARIO

LD151346 Rabat MAP in English 1248 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Beirut, Apr 15 (MAP)--Mr. M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan foreign affairs and cooperation minister, accused Libya of being "the major arms-supplier of the so called 'POLISARIO'". "The arms taken from the groups that attack Morocco come from Libya", stated the Moroccan official. In an interview with the weekly information bulletin 'AN-NAHAR' report news published Monday, Mr Boucetta stated that Morocco considers that "POLISARIO" an artificial organization similar "to the one trained in Libya which attacked the Tunisian town Qafsa last January". "The same weapons, the same methods and the same routes have been used in Qafsaah and the in the Sahara", concluded Mr. Boucetta.

GABON PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 5-DAY VISIT

LD151354 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Rabat, Apr 15 (MAP)--Mr. Leon Mebiame, prime minister of Gabon, arrived here Monday afternoon for a five-day official visit in Morocco at the invitation of Mr. Maata Bouabid, Moroccan premier and justice minister.

During his stay in Morocco, the Gabonese prime minister will be presiding over his country's delegation to the works of the joint Moroccan-Gabonese commission.

"Morocco and Gabon are linked since a decade, by relations of brotherhood and friendship at the highest level, and we are so proud and conscious that we will meet frequently", said Mr. Mebiame in a statement to newsmen.

Evoking the recent statement made by the Gabonese President El Hadj Omar Bongo on an eventual mediation regarding the tension prevailing in the northwest African region and Gabon's position vis-a-vis the current problems, Mr Mebiame said that Gabon "is a country infatuated with freedom and justice and wants security for all". "We want the peoples to live in good neighborhood and that friendship reigns among them", he added, precisising that "it is this context that the Gabonese president has always acted in favor of a peaceful settlement of conflicts".

Later in the afternoon, the two countries' prime ministers presided over the opening ceremony of the joint Moroccan-Gabonese commission of works, in the presence of several members of the Moroccan Government, namely Mr. M'hamed Boucetta, foreign affairs and cooperation minister; Mr. Abdelkamel Raghaye, finance minister; Mr. Gessous, minister of trade, industry, merchant marine, as well as the two countries' ambassadors. In the evening Mr. Maata Bouabid offered a dinner in the honor of his Gabonese counterpart Mr. Mebiame and the delegation accompanying him. Mr. Dey Ould Sidi Baba, speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives, several members of the Moroccan Government, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Rabat attended the dinner.

(?On this) occasion, Mr Maata Bouabid delivered a speech in [words indistinct] of the relations between the two countries and the links uniting King Hassan II of Morocco and the Gabonese President El Hadj Omar Bongo, the two countries' positions regarding problems in Africa, namely racism and colonialism, as well as several other issues.

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I 5

NORTH AFRICA

"In Morocco as well as in Gabon, we respectively work to make up for the lost time in the colonial period. Our respective heads of state are thus considered by our peoples as the founders of our countries", said Mr. Bouabid.

[Words indistinct] will but reaffirm our full support to the efforts made by the Al-Quds committee under chairmanship of King Hassan II, to whom we pay homage for his action in view of the liberation of this holy city".

In this respect the prime minister recalled that a just solution to the Palestinian problem will only be achieved through Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem. The recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI RETURNS HOME FROM MOMBASA 15 APR

JN151844 Khartoum SUNA in English 1800 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Khartoum, April 15 (SUNA)--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri was back home this afternoon from Kenya after participating in the East Africa regional summit in Mombasa.

He met Ugandan President Godfrey Binaisa before leaving Mombasa today to discuss bilateral relations.

The president cabled Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi on leaving Mombasa, expressing his appreciation of the role played by President Moi in realising positive results in the summit meetings which included Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

TUNISIA

FOREIGN MINISTER FITOURI REPLACED IN CABINET RESHUFFLE

LD151450 Tunis TAP in English 1400 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Tunis, April 15 (TAP)--A partial cabinet reshuffle took place today on President Bourguiba's request. This reshuffle concerns the foreign and transport and communication ministries.

Mr Hassen Belkhodja, transport and communication minister, replaces Mr Mohamed Fitouri as foreign minister and Mr Sadok Ben Jomaa, former state secretary to social affairs (1970-1971) is appointed transports and communications minister.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT ARRIVES FOR TALKS WITH BOURGUIBA

LD152224 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO, arrived in Tunis this evening. On his arrival he said that he has come to Tunis to discuss with President Habib Bourguiba and Tunisian officials everything that concerns Arab solidarity and the Palestinian issue. On his arrival Yasir 'Arafat was met by Mohamed Mzali, minister of national education, who is in charge of coordinating government business with the president, and by a number of government and party officials.

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I S R A E L

N 1

DELEGATION SOURCE: DIFFERENCES STILL EXIST WITH U.S.

TA160555 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Excerpt] A source from the Israeli delegation [in Washington] told our correspondent that there were still issues at dispute with the Americans, but the general impression was that there was no coordinated Egyptian-U.S. position.

BEGIN SAYS NO U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL

TA160604 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Excerpt] [Shalom Qital, in Washington] The format of the negotiations has not yet been settled. There is no agreement on several issues involving the implementation of the autonomy. However, the prime minister, upon leaving his second talk with Jimmy Carter yesterday, said: There is no pressure from the United States.

[Begin] There is no confrontation. The talks are good and I hope--tomorrow we will continue--that the results will also be good, but the nation of Israel ought to know that all the predictions that they were going to put pressure on us and that there would be a confrontation have not come true.

GENERALS TAMIR, AL-MAJDUB MEET IN CAIRO

TA151522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Maj Gen Avraham Tamir and Gen Taha al-Majdub met today in Cairo and discussed the progress of normalization between Israel and Egypt. After the meeting, General al-Majdub said the joint normalization committee will receive this month a comprehensive report on the state of relations between the two countries.

PERES OUTLINES ALIGNMENT POLICY ON SETTLEMENTS, GAZA

TA151543 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said today at a meeting with party affairs correspondents that, when the Labor Party returns to power, it will not establish any settlements within densely-populated Arab settlements, will establish autonomy in Gaza and will invite Jordan's King Husayn to join the negotiations on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Peres added that he had indeed been invited by As-Sadat to visit Egypt, but would only meet with him after Prime Minister Menahem Begin's return from Washington so as not to harm the negotiations.

IDF CONTINUES TO MEDIATE BETWEEN UNIFIL, HADDAD

TA151408 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Israel continues to mediate in the conflict between UNIFIL and Sa'd Haddad's militia. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that at a briefing of the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee it has been disclosed that the commanding officer of the Northern Command, Avigdor Ben-Gal, visited the UN headquarters and later met with Sa'd Haddad in an attempt to calm spirits. The two parties are fighting for control over several houses in the village of At-Tiri, from which it is possible to overlook the road passing through the UNIFIL area and an area under Haddad's control. The committee has further been informed that between a quarter and a third of Lebanon's territory is under PLO control and is actually a country within a country.

ETHIOPIA

COMMENTARY CONDEMNS 'AMERICAN HEGEMONISTIC ARROGANCE'

LD112036 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 11 Apr 80 EA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Tonight's commentary will look into American hegemonistic arrogance:

In the past few days it has been reported from Washington, the seat of American imperialism, that B-52 bombers have recently made warning flights over the countries in the Persian Gulf area; that an additional force comprising warships capable of providing logistic facilities for thousands of marines and serving as floating military bases are going to be dispatched to the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean; and that a massive military exercise involving thousands of the members of the armed forces, tanks, warplanes, helicopters and so on is presently underway. It has been revealed that U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown officially announced in Washington the fact that B-52 bombers--which have the capacity to carry nuclear weapons and whose destructive mission was well manifested in the Vietnam war--have made flights of warning by violating the airspace of the countries in the area of the Persian Gulf.

On the one hand, news reports indicating that the Americans are out to strengthen military buildup in the Indian Ocean and that they are taking measures to promote their influence by the use of force are continuing to circulate widely. On the other hand, the people of Western Europe have been told by the United States to take tough measures against the Soviet Union on the allegations that the Soviet Union had advanced against Afghanistan. There is no time when America will refrain from exerting efforts to expand its sphere of influence by means of pressure under the claim that it is the leader of the free world--an arrogance which has emanated from hegemonistic ambitions.

Nowadays, however, it is very easy to conceive that her military maneuvers and political offensive in the Indian Ocean, the Near East and the Far East have assumed ever greater proportions. In particular, the recent flights of warning, the military exercise and the dispatch of additional warships to the Indian Ocean have increased the threat of American aggression in the area. The overthrow by popular upsurge of the former Shah Reza Pahlavi--who was the guardian of American interests in Iran; and the country's subsequent assumption of anti-imperialist posture; the establishment of strong anti-imperialist, progressive, popular government in Afghanistan following the Afghan revolution; the further strengthening of the struggle of many of the countries of the Near and Middle East in the protection of their national interests has administered heavy alarm and threat to the Americans and the monopolies, especially oil monopolies, who maintain an entrenched network of exploitation in the area.

Under the pretext of safeguarding vital interests, America is presently engaged in escalating her military maneuvers in order to strangle progressive movements. The American Government, under pressure of monopolies who are amassing immense profits from exploited areas, is conducting military maneuvers to safeguard its vital interests.

Although the countries mentioned above may serve as stepping stones for measures taken by the Americans in the Near and the Middle East, it is in the British colony of Diego Garcia, located in the Indian Ocean; that America is firmly establishing its main military bases. Reports have it that naval and air force bases are being expanded at the cost of millions of dollars in such a way that they will provide facilities for huge and heavy aircraft. America is more than at any other time before manifesting its hegemonistic arrogance in order to protect interests of the global multinational monopolies. Though the final victory of genuine people's struggle is inevitable, America's military maneuvers and hegemonistic arrogance in the Near and Middle East are matters that cannot be seen with indifference.

KENYA

MOMBASA SUMMIT CONFERENCE ENDS; JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

LD151154 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 15 Apr 80 EA

[Text] The four presidents of Kenya, the Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania attended a summit conference in Mombasa yesterday under the chairmanship of President Daniel Arap Moi.

At the end of their meeting, which started at 3:30 in the afternoon and lasted 3 hours, a joint communique was issued. The four heads of state exchanged views and reached an understanding on a number of matters concerning regional cooperation. They noted with satisfaction the continued improvement in the internal situation in Uganda. They all affirmed their willingness to render any assistance as Uganda would request. It was also agreed that the ministers of trade from the four nations should hold an early meeting to discuss ways and means of promoting trade relations in this region.

It was also agreed at the meeting that ministers charged with the affairs of the defunct East African Community should meet in Arusha on 7 May to discuss the reports on mediation and thereafter report to their respective governments. It was agreed that the Sudan may send an observer to the Arusha meeting. The four presidents expressed their willingness to promote closer understanding between the peoples of this region and it was therefore underlined that the press and radio had very special responsibilities to ensure that such understanding and cooperation were not jeopardized. At the end of the meeting it was agreed that the next regional summit will be held in Kampala, Uganda.

Speaking during a state dinner which he gave in honor of his guests, President Moi said the people of Africa have suffered enough through problems of refugees and wars of liberation.

The president said it was of paramount importance for African leaders to maintain the dignity and freedom of man, which many of the leaders had themselves suffered for. He went on to point out that although many leaders have consistently condemned racialism and tribalism, mere condemnation will be useless unless there is concrete effort towards elimination of the evils. President Moi called on all human beings to respect each other, regardless of race, religion or creed. He assured the three presidents that Kenya will continue to play her role in ensuring that peace prevails in this region of Africa.

President Moi said that it was gratifying to see that the four leaders had pledged to give support in the reconstruction of a new Uganda. President Moi observed that Ugandans have suffered much, and he, therefore, called upon the leadership in that country to put the interests of the people before personal interests. He hoped that after the general elections Ugandans would be united and they would be able to play their part in an international community.

President Moi then proposed a toast for the long life of the three presidents, with particular wishes for President Nyerere, whose 58th birthday was being celebrated yesterday. President Moi hailed President Nyerere's efforts in ensuring the transition of power from colonial Rhodesia to an independent Zimbabwe.

Speaking through an interpreter, President Numayri of the Sudan pledged his country's commitment to bring Uganda to a sound economic and political footing. President Numayri added that if the people in Uganda fell behind the leadership of President Binaisa, then most of the problems facing that country could be dealt with. President Numayri thanked President Moi and the people of Kenya for the warm welcome they had accorded him when he arrived in Mombasa.

The three visiting presidents will leave Mombasa today for their respective countries.

NAIROBI COMMENTARY VIEWS SCHOOL UNREST

LD101700 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1815 GMT 9 Apr 80 EA

[Station commentary: "The Way It Is"]

[Text] The waves of riots and strikes that have gripped secondary schools, teacher training colleges and other educational institutions in the country have been a source of great concern to educationalists and noneducationists alike. They are a clear signal that something is grossly wrong within the educational system so affected by the riots and strikes.

On 30 March this year, students at Kigumo Bendera secondary school went on strike complaining about shortage of water and food. Ten days earlier, the students of Bungoma Town Harambee high school went on strike and caused extensive damage to school property to revenge [as heard] what they called high school fees charged for poor quality teaching, while on 12 March students of the St Paul's United Theological College went on strike because of differences with the college authorities regarding appropriate punishments for the students.

Other educational institutions which have been afflicted with school strikes recently are: The new secondary school in Machakos district; Mulango girls' secondary school in Kitui district; Friends School, Kamusinga; Kirinyaga technical institute; (Maymira) girls' secondary school in Siaya; the Mombasa polytechnic; Moyale secondary school, not to mention the Kenya science teachers' college and the University of Nairobi at the main campus and the Kenyatta University College campus.

It has been suggested that if these strikes went unreported by the mass media, there would be fewer of them. That may be so, but we believe that the school strikes and demonstrations have been far too numerous, far too widely spread in the country and the reasons given for the strikes far too consistent for the press reports to have influenced the students unduly.

The general reaction of teachers, officials at the Ministry of Education headquarters, and parents has been typically traditional; that is, to ascribe the riots to a few obstructive ringleaders who are intent on interrupting and perhaps ruining the smooth operation of the educational institutions.

We have also heard of accusations that strikes and riots are the work of external saboteurs seeking to influence the students through imported ideologies. But the widespread nature of the strikes in the rural areas would suggest far too incredible a level of ideological infiltration. The actual response of the authorities has been characteristically authoritative; that is, to alienate the students as enemies and warn to take, and in other cases take, punitive actions against the students. The fact of the matter is that such punitive actions are only a stopgap to buy time and where proper action is not taken to remedy the student grievances. The riots and strikes are bound to recur again and again.

The authoritative assumption that students' grievances are trivial affairs that can be papered over by punishing the so-called ringleaders (?its) aim is ridding of the signs that constitute the recipe for strikes. [sentence as heard] And it is for this reason that students' complaints and grievances should be taken more seriously than they have been hitherto, even if the reactions were to simply explain clearly why their demands cannot be met.

Although the manner in which students' grievances is expressed may not be as enlightened and submissive as our educational establishment would like to see, no strike has ever been staged simply because the students wanted to be wantonly disobedient and destructive. More often than not, strikes and riots have occurred because they were just the only way in which students (?thought) they could express their grievances. In other words, most strikes have been caused by a total breakdown in communication between students and teachers, and in particular the headmasters or headmistresses.

Strikes do not cause themselves; neither are they the spontaneous outbursts of juvenile hooliganism that they have been mistaken for.

Strikes occur because situations conducive to their occurrence are created. Research indicates that in Kenya as elsewhere, strikes are essentially the expression of deep-seated dissatisfaction and frustration with the system, and it is this longtime deep-seated frustration which, because of the accumulation of grievances which go unresolved for a long time, triggers off a violent outburst through some particular incident. Quite often, the violence so provoked is totally out of proportion to the incident which triggers it off, which may be as small as the refusal of a student to receive what he considers unjustified punishment.

Traditional authoritative attitudes on the part of our educational establishment, which consumes one-third of the national budget, dictate the kind of student condemnation that we have had so far, but the realities of our changed times demand a different kind of solution whereby the students are made to understand their obligations clearly.

The reasons given for strikes and riots have been consistently similar in almost all the institutions. There have been complaints about food, about shortages of facilities such as science equipment, and there have been genuine complaints about shortage of teachers. Other strikes have been caused by the disadvantaged position of harambee [self-help] streams existing alongside government-aided streams in the same schools.

The increased prices of commodities that have in recent years hit Kenya like many other countries have meant that the limited funds cannot provide the abundance of provisions that students have been used to, and the reality of the situation is that students, like everybody else in the country, must learn to expect less in the way of amenities and comforts.

But teachers have also made mistakes in failing to open up avenues of dialog with their students which would make the students understand why they have to tighten their belts like the taxpayers who sustain them in school. Similarly, it is the duty of the teacher to make his students understand that shortage of manpower, in this case qualified teachers, is a national phenomenon.

But the student finds it perplexing, indeed frustrating, to forego a biology teacher at the risk of failing his important examinations. The students have made their share of mistakes in expressing their genuine problems through the destruction of expensive equipment which is difficult to replace, and this has alienated them from the general public. But parents, school boards of governors and teachers have also made their mistakes in their failure to contain the situation.

As the president, Daniel Arab Moi, said recently during his address to headmasters: Teachers and students are all to blame for the unrest in schools and there is a need for better human relations.

Clear channels of communication must henceforth be instituted between the students, their teachers, parents and the boards of governors, to make everybody understand that the prevailing serious educational constraints are a national problem that must be faced bravely through curtailing some of the comforts that we have hitherto taken for granted.

This really is the only way to stave off the threat of riots and destructive strikes in our educational institutions.

And that is the way it is.

SOMALIA

VICE PRESIDENT SAMANTAR DENIES ETHIOPIAN CHARGES OF INVASION

LD131556 Mogadishu International Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Apr 80 EA

[Text] The Somalia Democratic Republic [SDR] vice president and minister of defense, Challe Mohammed Ali Samantar, on Saturday night described as a baseless lie the Abyssinian colonialist allegation that Somali troops invaded districts colonized by the Addis regime. Challe Samantar pointed out that this is part of the usual false propaganda of the Addis regime, vainly aimed at misleading international opinion.

The first vice president said that although the Abyssinian regime launched continuous aerial raids on towns and villages of the SDR, the Somali Government has not retaliated through military means, but has instead invited foreign diplomats and journalists to those areas to witness the losses of life and property caused by the Abyssinian warplanes.

Challe Samantar said that it is the Abyssinian regime that whenever it suffers serious reversals at the hands of the liberation front, it resorts to spreading false propaganda, claiming that the Somali Army launched an attack against it. This lie cannot cheat international opinion, as he who is fanning fire in the Horn and has invited the support of foreign troops is known to all, said the first vice president.

Challe Samantar pointed out that it was evident from the intercepted communications of the Abyssinian warplanes which raided Somalia that Spanish and Russian languages were used, proving the fact that foreign troops were employed in the aggression against the SDR. The minister of defense said that, as has been repeatedly stressed by the SDR president, Somalia is a peace-loving country and cherishes peaceful coexistence. It does not want to create problems for any country and neither claims other countries territory, nor does it entertain expansionist ambitions. However, the first vice president warned that any act of provocation and aggression will be dealt with accordingly.

Challe Samantar declared that the Somali National Army and people are ready to defend the sovereignty, unity and dignity of their country. The vice president said that the Somali Government supports liberation movements struggling for their right to self-determination, such as Western Somalia, Abo and Eritrean Liberation Fronts. The minister of defense said that Somalia is not responsible for the liberation wars being waged by freedom fighters who have been denied their inalienable right to self-determination.

Challe Samantar declared that what cannot be achieved through peaceful negotiations cannot be realized through war. We ought to believe that peace can reign in the Horn of Africa and the world at large when peoples under colonial segregation are allowed to exercise their right of self-determination. Challe Samantar pointed out that the Somali National Army, during their 20 years of existence, have been in the forefront of struggle for national development, through which they have earned respect and honor.

TANZANIA

DAR ES SALAAM REPORTS ARRIVAL OF PRC'S HUANG HUA

LD131905 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1800 GMT 13 Apr 80 EA

[Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Ndugu Huang Hua arrived in Dar es Salaam this evening on an official visit. He expressed his government's intention to strengthen good relations with Tanzania. The minister, who is leading a 6-man delegation, was met by his host, Foreign Minister Ndugu Benjamin Mkapa.

Ndugu Hua told newsmen at Dar es Salaam airport that his country is committed to consolidating the existing good relations with Tanzania. The minister said he expected to have fruitful talks with Ndugu Mkapa on the world economy, the political situation in southern Africa and other matters of bilateral interest.

Railroad Inspection

LD141542 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1200 GMT 14 Apr 80 EA

[Text] Dar es Salaam--The Chinese foreign minister, Ndugu Huang Hua, who is on a visit to Tanzania, spent 2 hours inspecting the work of the Freedom Railways Authority, whose line goes to Zambia. The minister inspected the track from Dar es Salaam to Yombo station.

Ndugu Hua, who is leading a six-man delegation, arrived in Dar es Salaam yesterday from the Seychelles on his way to Salisbury to attend the Zimbabwean independence celebrations. The delegation will be in Tanzania for a total of 6 days. It will interrupt its visit to go to Salisbury the day after tomorrow to attend the Zimbabwean independence celebrations, returning here 24 April to continue its visit. The delegation will hold talks with government officials on political and economic issues between the two countries.

Ndugu Hua and his delegation will also meet President Nyerere.

Talk with Nyerere

LD152024 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 15 Apr 80 EA

[Text] Dar es Salaam--President Nyerere this evening held talks with the Chinese foreign minister, Ndugu Huang Hua. The talks between Mwalimu Nyerere and Ndugu Huang, held at Msasani [Nyerere's private residence] in Dar es Salaam, concentrated on important international issues, including relations between Tanzania and the PRC, the liberation of the African Continent and the economic and political problems affecting Indochina. The talks were attended by the foreign minister, Ndugu Benjamin Mkapa; the principal secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ndugu Daniel Mloka; the Chinese ambassador to Tanzania; and other government officials.

VICE PRESIDENT JUMBE VISITS CHINA

For PRC press coverage of Tanzanian Vice President Jume's visit to China, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 14 April People's Republic of China DAILY REPORT and subsequent editions.

CHAD

INTENSE FIGHTING REPORTEDLY CONTINUES IN NDJAMENA

AB151110 Paris AFP in English 1017 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Ndjamena, 15 Apr (AFP)--Intense fighting continued here on the 24th day of the armed struggle for the capital of Chad.

The two main opponents in the Chad civil war, the Armed Forces of the North (FAN) of Hissein Habre and the People's Armed Forces (FAP) of Goukouni Oueddei clashed fiercely yesterday in the north of the town, near Ndjamena airport, and at a FAN-held military camp in the centre of Ndjamena. By yesterday evening the situation of President Goukouni's and Defence Minister Mr Habre's forces seemed still unchanged.

Meanwhile, a cease-fire control commission met with Mr Habre in a FAN-held zone on Monday, it was learned here yesterday.

The commission, consisting of two Togolese officers and two French observers, last week met Mr Goukouni in an attempt to implement the cease-fire signed by the two opposing leaders on April 6.

Commission sources said attempts to find a means of ending the fighting would continue over the next few days, despite the absence of proposed commission members from Nigeria, Cameroon and Liberia.

The commission was set up as part of a mediation initiative by Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema.

LE MONDE: HABRE SETBACKS LESSEN CEASE-FIRE CHANCES

LD151255 Paris LE MONDE in French 13-14 Apr 80 p 3

[Francoise Chipaux dispatch: "Mr Hissein Habre Increasingly Isolated"]

[Excerpts] Ndjamena--The Chadian capital is becoming locked in a war of attrition and it is difficult to see how the observers from the committee to monitor the collapsed cease-fire can prevent it. The Togolese and French are, moreover, still the only observers in the country, since their Liberian, Nigerian and Cameroonian colleagues have still not managed to reach Ndjamena.

One thing, however, seems clear: Time is working against Hissein Habre. He is politically isolated and is being subjected to increasingly strong military pressures and his reinforcements are being harassed in the northeastern district of the city by Mr Acyl Ahmat's supporters. This situation is not encouraging his adversaries to seek a compromise. Mr Djona Golo, Colonel Kamougue's representative and justice minister, expressed this clearly: "The government is firmly convinced that any truce is favorable to Hissein Habre. Today we want peace to limit the number of deaths but there is no question of accepting the demands of a man who is fighting with this back to the wall and who is seeking a way out. The government wants to carry on to the end." Mr Mahamat Abba said (pro-Libyan People's Liberation Front) told us the same: "Any truce gives Hissein Habre another opportunity to prepare for battle. The soldiers no longer want a cease-fire. They want to settle this matter once and for all."

In this respect there can be no doubt. To whatever faction they belong the soldiers agree that they want to go on killing each other to the last man. "It was President Goukouni, the head of state, who signed the cease-fire, not the FROLINAT leader," one of them told us, drawing a distinction between his leader's two roles.

ZAIRE

MOBUTU ISSUES ULTIMATUM ON STUDENTS' RETURN TO CLASSES

AB152201 Paris AFP in French 1804 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Kinshasa, 15 Apr (AFP)--President Mobutu Sese Seko on Tuesday ordered students of the university and higher institutions in Kinshasa to go back to lectures tomorrow, it has been learned from official sources in the Zairian capital. The Zairian head of state announced that the university campus and higher institutions will be closed next Saturday if his call has not been heeded by then.

The Kinshasa students, who were supposed to have resumed classes on Monday following the Easter vacation, have in fact prolonged the strike movement they started in mid-March to protest against the degradation in their working conditions and the insufficiency of their scholarship grants. Also, secondary and primary school teachers have not fully gone back to their classes, which they suspended for similar reasons before the Easter vacation.

These disturbances, which are full of political significance, reflect the economic difficulties facing the less fortunate masses, especially since the measures of monetary deflations applied at the end of last December. Whereas the end of the year 1979 was marked by a slight slowing down in inflation--it is still uncertain whether it is the result of seasonal or cyclical phenomenon--the high rise in the price of fuel and transportation has led to a high rise in the cost of living which no [words indistinct]

GHANA

ACCRA COMMENTARY VIEWS CAUSES OF LIBERIAN COUP

AB152300 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is good news to hear that the situation in Liberia is quickly returning to normal. This is because Liberia is an active member of the Organization of African Unity and the country's president, who died so tragically in Saturday's coup d'etat, was the current chairman of the OAU. Therefore, what happens in Liberia at the moment attracts worldwide interest and reflects to some extent on the whole African Continent.

Indeed, it is hoped that the good sense of Liberians generally will contribute toward a relatively peaceful socioeconomic transformation of the country. The painful truth is that the ruling class in Liberia has not managed to keep pace adequately with present trends in Africa and the world. Until Saturday, Liberia had been ruled continuously for 102 years by a single political party, the True Whig Party. Inside the True Whig Party itself, some sort of dynastic rule had become established. President Tolbert, for instance, was vice president for 20 years before he became president his family, and members of the family of his predecessor, President Tubman, has intermarried and [word indistinct] and their friends' friends have their tentacles in most of the lucrative business undertakings in the country.

In a small country of less than 2 million people, personalized rule of that type causes wide resentment. In Liberia's case, this was worsened by the suspicion harbored by the great majority of the people that ethnic considerations contributed to political and economic advancement. The 1.5 million members of the population who hail from the land itself have suspected for a long time that the freed slaves who settled in Liberia from America in 1822, the Americo-Liberians, looked upon them as inferior people who must be made hewers of wood and drawers of water. One proverb which arouses wide political emotion in Liberia goes like this: "Monkey, work; baboon, draw," which is the Liberian equivalent of our own, "Monkey dey work; baboon dey chop."

Now President Tolbert tried to get rid of this feeling among the indigenous people. He himself spoke a native dialect, and he brought into his government indigenous people; but it was too little, too late, as the saying goes.

Liberia, like the rest of the Third World, has not [word indistinct] the revolution of rising expectations, and as people thirsted for better educational qualifications, better health facilities, better drinking water, more employment opportunities, better and cheaper food, they tended to blame everything on their government. The conspicuous consumption habits of some members of government did not help matters. The first indication that discontent could be channelled into an uprising successfully were seen [word indistinct] last year, when a proposed increase in the price of rice, the staple food, led to a riot in which about a hundred people were killed. Last month, Mr Gabriel Bacchus Matthews, one of the organizers of last year's protest, called for a general strike, pending the resignation of the Tolbert government. He and nearly 80 of his followers were jailed, and their newly formed People's Progressive Party banned. Within a month of that happening, President Tolbert's government had fallen. The voice of protest had not adequately been listened to.

LIBERIA

DOE TAKES MEASURES TO 'FULFILL PROMISES'

AB151436 Monrovia Radio EIWA in English 0755 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] The head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council, Master Sgt Samuel K. Doe, yesterday embarked upon major steps towards fulfilling his promises to the Liberian people. He has instructed Public Works Minister Gabriel Tucker to turn over unoccupied units at the Matadi housing estates to men and women of the Armed Forces of Liberia to be used as living quarters. The head of state, who gave this order yesterday when he visited the Matadi housing estates with Minister Tucker, also ordered that necessary arrangements be made to relocate civilians who are already at the estate.

In another move, Master Sgt Doe announced that the True Whig Party building on (Ashmoth) street in Monrovia had been turned over to the Liberian national police force for occupancy. He revealed that plans have been made to relocate international organizations already housed in the two party buildings to a more convenient area. Head of State Doe told newsmen at the executive mansion that a special committee would be set up to review the high rents imposed on tenants in the country. In the near future, he said, government would subsidize rents for its employees and added that those occupying government housing estates would not be required to pay rent.

On soldiers molesting citizens and residents, Master Sgt Doe emphasized that anyone found molesting people would be shot.

Contacts With People

AB151720 Monrovia Radio EIWA in English 1600 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] The head of state of Liberia and chairman of the ruling People's Redemption Council, Master Sgt S. K. Doe, has told students that the country needs their support as well as that of all the Liberian people in the task of building a new society. Sergeant Doe made the statement this morning when he made a brief stop by the (?Chaleys Tolbert) Memorial Academy [CTMA] in Monrovia. He said it is his duty as head of state to visit every Liberian institution of learning in order to acquaint himself with the problems of the people. Head of state Sergeant Doe later presented a purse of \$1,000 to the students of CTMA for copy books. The acting principal of the school, Robert (Kamakay), thanked Sergeant Doe for the gesture.

Yesterday, the Liberian head of state visited the ongoing church conference at the (Duko) hotel, where he promised the delegates protection as long as they are in Liberia. Master Sgt Doe told the delegates that his government would see to it that they leave Liberia for their respective countries as soon as the conference is over.

(?In remark), the minister of education, Dr Henry B. (Fandulley Jr), told the delegates that the new government is committed to the building of a new society, where the true Christian principles of brotherhood of men will be realized.

On his way from (Duko), the head of state made a brief stop at the central prison of Monrovia. He ordered the release of some prisoners said to have been illegally detained. He also made a brief stop at the maternity center. After familiarizing himself with problems facing the hospital, he promised to give immediate attention, effective today.

Price Freeze, Exchange Controls

AB151730 [Editorial report] Monrovia Radio EIWA in English, at the end of its brief 1600 GMT newscast on 15 April, carries a series of announcements and directives issued by the People's Redemption Council, these included the following:

1. "For purposes of national security, special restrictions will be temporarily enforced for the time being in relation to the use of export proceeds, paying for imports and capital transfers. The National Bank of Liberia, in consultation with the ministers of finance, and of planning and economic affairs, will issue rules and regulations necessary to effect this decree. Meanwhile, all banks will open on Wednesday, 16 April, at 0800. Signed, Master Sgt Samuel K. Doe, head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council."
2. "By order of the minister of justice of Liberia, the Honorable (Chiya Jibo), all personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia to whom government vehicles were assigned for operations during the past few days should see that they return the vehicles to the executive mansion and deliver same to the director of police [words indistinct]."
3. "The minister of finance of the People's Redemption Council of the Armed Forces of Liberia wishes to advise the public in general that all existing legitimate government obligations will continue to be honored. This includes contractual obligations--domestic and foreign. All vendors and suppliers of goods and services will continue to honor all [words indistinct] ordered and/or letters of [words indistinct] issued by the minister of finance. It is hereby requested that all suppliers of goods and services submit to the minister of finance statements of account or supporting documents for all outstanding government obligations incurred (?as of) 10 April 1980. These statements are to be delivered to the bureau of general accounting, Ministry of Finance, on or before 15 May 1980. [word indistinct] of all government checks will be temporarily suspended until Wednesday, 16 April 1980, when the banks resume normal operations. In the cause of the people the struggle continues, Maj (Kerry J. Zulo), minister of finance."
4. "The Ministry of Finance is hereby urging all taxpayers, including individuals, partnerships, corporations, nationals and foreign residents alike, to pay their tax obligations to government. The Ministry of Finance still maintains the procedure for the collection of tax." "Withholding taxes are still due 15 April for the quarter just ending. [Words indistinct] file income tax returns for 1979 are urged to do so. Any entity or individual which shall be declared a tax delinquent by the minister of finance shall be summoned by the People's Redemption Council to explain the cause for the delay in the payment. In the cause of the people, the struggle continues."

5. "The minister of commerce, industry and transportation wishes to inform the public that until otherwise ordered, a price freeze on all commodities sold in the country, imported or locally produced, and rent is hereby instituted, effective immediately. This price freeze is necessary in view of the emergency situation existing in the country. The public can be assured that as soon as conditions return to normal, the price freeze will be lifted. The minister solicits the full cooperation of the public in this respect. Signed, (Samuel P. Justin), deputy minister; approved, Joseph N. Douglas, minister of commerce."

6. "The minister of commerce, industry and transportation has requested the leaders of the various business communities to be present at a very urgent and important meeting in the conference room of the Ministry [words indistinct] at 1000. Those concerned are the presidents of the Lebanese business community, the Indian association, the wholesalers and retailers association and the Chamber of Commerce. Others are the Liberian retailers association, the pharmaceutical board, the market women of Liberia. Please be present and on time. Signed: (Samuel P. Justin), deputy minister; approved, Joseph N. Douglas, minister of commerce."

Meeting Summons

AB151818 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] All members of the People's Redemption Council are to meet at the executive mansion immediately upon hearing this announcement. Once again, all members of the People's Redemption Council are to meet at the executive mansion immediately upon hearing this announcement. This is signed by Master Sgt Samuel K. Doe, chairman, People's Redemption Council and head of state.

Prisoner Release

AB151935 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] Two hundred fifty-nine prisoners have been released from the Monrovia central prison and other prisons in the capital upon the orders of the chairman of the People's Redemption Council and head of state of Liberia, Master Sergeant S. K. Doe. From the central prison, 101 prisoners convicted of charges ranging from vagrancy to embezzlement are to be released and 158 detainees without trial in various prisons in Monrovia were also ordered released.

Sergeant Doe, who ordered the release of the 259 prisoners today, said this was a manifestation of his desire to see these prisoners--most of them young men and women--rehabilitated into productive law-abiding citizens.

In the meantime, the chairman of the People's Redemption Council has announced certain appointments within the special security service. Those appointed today were 2d Lt Lewis (Mwafema), deputy director, special security service [words indistinct] assistant director for administration; (Jackson E. Towa), assistant director for operations, and Col (George Diteman), assistant director for training.

OAU Statement

LD152022 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 15 Apr 80 EA

[Text] The OAU has appealed to the new Liberian authorities for demonstration of clemency towards the members of the former government. In a statement issued in Addis Ababa on the death of the current OAU chairman, President William Tolbert of Liberia, the OAU also urged the new leaders to grant fair, normal and equitable trials to the former government members. The statement also expressed great affliction on the death of Dr William Tolbert.

NIGER

KOUNTCHE ADDRESSES NATION ON MILITARY TAKEOVER ANNIVERSARY

AB151345 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 14 Apr 80

[Text] On the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the coming to power of the armed forces, the chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, Col Seyni Kountche addresses the nation. [national anthem]

[Begin Kountche recording] Nigerois, my dear compatriots, last year on this same date, on 15 April, I took stock of the past 5 years, that is since the armed forces came to power in our country. The report of the situation could not be considered either as an achievement which calls for rest nor as a satisfactory report which indicates work completely done. It was just a straightforward and independent report, which aimed at redefining the goals of future. We recently adopted a 5-year plan which set our objectives for the 80's. I have already told you how important those years are for the future of our country.

In fact, the international situation which controls the greater part of our national life is itself particularly gloomy. In the political field in America, Europe and Africa, everywhere the firing of guns leaves us uneasy with respect to our future. The equilibrium of terror, which has been respected up to now because of the impending danger which it represents, has begun to break up. [words indistinct]

In the field of exchanges the North-South dialog on which the great part of our future depends has become today a "dialog of the deaf." The international monetary rules are dismantled and it is not surprising that today, the biggest powers impose their policy on everybody. The disorganization which stems from this situation renders any attempt for harmonious and real development ineffective.

We all have to be conscious of the following fact: We live in a world of tensions and selfishness which is governed by conflicts of interest. The questioning of past values leads us to insecurity and destabilization. This is a real tragedy for us, the small countries. And yet, my dear compatriots, we have to follow our path; tranquility will not come from anywhere while we stand unactive. We have to build the Niger of tomorrow.

Therefore, let me advise you to be much more responsible and to take more initiatives in order to fight the archaic system of development. Let me remind you that destabilization is a constant threat to small countries like ours with our fragile and insecure borders. You, therefore, have to keep vigilant in order not to let subversion enter and in order to build a just and prosperous Niger.

Here in Niger, we must build a fraternal and responsible society a society which is lively and solid. By so doing we will bring forth the elements of our identity that we will then have to preserve from all external attacks.

It is now that we have to commit ourselves to building such a society despite the gloomy political and economic world context.

Nigeriens, let me in this period of preparation for rural activities give you my thoughts on the situation in Niger. The first point I shall elaborate on is the rural world which I consider as the focal point of our community's life. The second point will be the modern part, that is the management of state affairs.

My dear compatriots, the recently adopted 1979-1983 5-year plan stems from a lucid and thorough analysis of the rural situation and takes into account the constraints which control our economic and social development. The first and major consequence [as heard] is doubtless the deterioration of the conditions for agricultural production as a result of the situation following and the impoverishment of soil.

The second consequence is the shortage in qualified cadres due to the archaic training system; most of the cadres work in public administration. The consequence of such situation is that the various sectors of importance in our country are deprived of adequate management.

Finally, attitudes have become rigid because of the weight of tradition and the difficulty of changing mentalities. The rural world finds it very difficult to adjust to modern forms of organization. In addition to that, people from rural areas are tempted to migrate from there and to come to the towns. This causes very difficult social problems. It also creates a parasitic sector that actually jeopardizes the needy and productive sectors.

Yet despite all these constraints, we have initiated a strategic operation that will allow us to achieve our major goals; namely, sufficiency in food, establishment of a society of development, economic liberation and lastly independence of action.

The first cited priority also calls for the modernization of agriculture and stock-breeding, which should give us self-sufficiency in food and at the same time prepare and preserve the irreplaceable capital that our soils and its vegetation constitute. Given the vital nature of this question, it is of great importance to detail its major elements. Rather favorable, although still irregular, rainfall last year kept us from famine. I have already told you that we have almost balanced our budget, but we still should not be complacent about this relative improvement. Our goal should be to achieve real security, which will mean that each family and village community could release sufficient surplus. The state will then play the role of storing this production. We should not forget that the vitality of our nation calls for a democratic society; that is, each year there are some [figure indistinct] new consumers who must be supplied with food. We can only pursue this policy through a policy of national development in which each citizen is responsible for the various problems with which the nation is confronted.

Lastly [words indistinct] the prime mover of our economic growth. We must move toward a policy of national exploitation and better knowledge of the subsoil of Niger in order to promote mining industry in our national economy. The existing mining pits must work to their full [words indistinct].

We must also start to plan for necessary conversions. To that end, let me recall that during my last inspection tour in the area of Agades, I noticed that in that zone; which is officially known as being poor in agriculture, there is potential for market gardening. Our main objective is to promote development so that each region of our country contributes according to its own particular resources to the strengthening of self-sufficiency in food. The latest 5-year plan gives a major role to rural development and vegetable and animal production. What we will have to do is to promote the expansion of reserves by preserving the biological equilibrium. We should put emphasis on hydraulic resources, the association of agriculture and stockbreeding, defense and restoration of soils and the implementation of a rural policy in order to secure to best possible use of their potential.

The economic growth of our country will be essentially controlled by the expansion of mining production, the promotion of industrial activities and of crafts, the improvement of the conditions of production of energy and a constant effort in the field of [words indistinct]. The feelings I experienced during my tour in the area of Agades confirm my hopes that the future of our country lies essentially in agriculture and stockbreeding. Despite the natural shortcomings we sometimes face, despite calamities we experience from time to time, the development and the progress of our population is strongly tied to the way we exploit our lands. We have to make all rural people conscious of the important value of each plot of land in our homeland once it is well kept, cared for and loved.

This is exactly what we expect from the society of development. We count on it alone. We want to assure each basic organization's self-sufficiency in food and the livestock to be exploited and sold that will help balance (? our economy).

Nigeriens and dear compatriots, I know that you are motivated and willing to participate in the creation of the society of development which, as I said on 17 March, comes within the framework of consultation and participation. You should also be motivated in the national [word indistinct]. As for the national armed forces, they remain loyal to the oath they took to lead the destiny of our country in honor, dignity and rigorous discipline.

A month ago representatives of all social strata of the nation, within the framework of a national commission, started setting up the society of development. The national commission will determine the different stages for making the said society a reality. As I said at the beginning of this address, we are engaged in a long and difficult task that should be conceived in a spirit of democracy. What I would like to ask you to do as a priority task is to define the basic institutions of the rural world, which is the vital element of the nation. In fact, the majority of peasants are still unprepared to welcome and assume the various tasks necessary for development. The peasants must be adequately (?trained) so that they will be able to adjust to new techniques. Since they are unable to achieve sufficient yields because of the inadequacy of remote and archaic means of production, they are tempted to abandon their village and find some well-being elsewhere. But we know how adventurous all these moves prove to be. The sole alternative to the rural exodus is a palpable renewal of our campaigns, which can only be achieved through the full participation of all villagers in the development efforts, which are primarily meant for their own benefit.

This is one of the goals of the society of development, and this is why it is of urgent priority to establish the societies basic cells in our villages. That calls for the future management of village matters by the villagers themselves, the dissemination of socioeconomic development techniques, and lastly building the structures of the Niger.

Nigeris, let me draw the attention of all those who are within all spheres of state power. I would like to ask them to be even more vigilant in the management of state affairs in order to safeguard the interests of the population. Cadres should not spare their efforts in order to promote the development of our country. They must foster such feelings as being constantly available and great abnegation [words indistinct] we have to fight against the atmosphere of corruption and laissez-faire that seems to be well established in our country. Let me warn the civil servants against all these illnesses: This warning goes particularly to the youth. They should understand that all over the world there is a route for each human being. There is no shame in getting promoted normally and progressively and living honestly with one's modest salary.

The Supreme Military Council is ready to examine the collective and individual situation of civil servants if need be in order to satisfy your demands. You must also try to comply with your legal obligations, because illegality is a dangerous game that bears very hard sanctions.

I would like to draw the attention of some of our citizens to [words indistinct]. Those foreigners who come to our country and start up businesses led by nonexistent Nigeris are not sensitive to the interest of our country. Therefore, let me warn you to be vigilant and not be used by these foreigners [words indistinct].

Nigeris, dear compatriots, our nation has so far made progress in the process of our development, and this we owe to the armed forces, which are the symbol of abnegation and sacrifice. They have put their lives at the service of the emancipation of our country. Now we are entering a new, even more important phase in the process of our development. We must try to implement well the 5-year plan that was entirely conceived by Nigeris for Nigeris. We must give full and complete expression to the problems we face as well as to ways and means of solving them.

Nigeris, on this anniversary of the armed forces coming to power, the Supreme Military Council has decided to pardon some members of the former government. This is an expression of our desire to establish an atmosphere of unity and consultation in our country, and we hope all Nigeris will understand our act.

NIGERIA

NEW CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF, OTHER OFFICIALS APPOINTED

AB151744 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 15 Apr 80

[Text] New staff military appointments have been announced in Lagos. With effect from today, the chief of defense staff is Lt Gen Alani Akinrinade, who until now was the chief of army staff. He is being succeeded in that post by Maj Gen (D.S. Daley). A statement issued by the executive office of the president today announced the voluntary retirement of the chief of naval staff, Vice Admiral Michael Odunlana and the chief of the air staff, Vice Air Marshal Issa Doko. As a result of this retirement, President Shagari has appointed Cmdr (Aksin Aduo) as the new chief of naval staff and Cpt (A. Bello) as the new chief of the air staff. The appointments took effect today.

V. 16 Apr 80

S O U T H E R N A F R I C A

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ANGOLA

NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT JUNTA MEMBER ORTEGA ARRIVES

FL160211 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0137 GMT 16 Apr 80

[Text] Daniel Ortega, member of the Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and of the National Reconstruction Government Junta of Nicaragua, today arrived in Luanda at the head of a delegation.

Ortega told the press he was pleased to visit an African country for the first time and that he wanted to expand ties of friendship and solidarity with the people of the African Continent.

He said that on his tour, which will take him to Zimbabwe, (Algeria), and again to Angola, he expects to exchange views of interest to these nations and Nicaragua which is involved in the task of national reconstruction. He asserted that from the time the Nicaraguan people were fighting against the Somoza dictatorship, they identified themselves with the liberation movements of southern Africa.

Daniel Ortega, member of the National Reconstruction Government Junta of Nicaragua, who is on an official visit to Angola, told the press that he had met President Jose Eduardo dos Santos in Havana and praised his leadership qualities. Ortega added that at that time he had the opportunity to exchange views with the Angolan president and to reaffirm the friendship and solidarity that bind the two peoples and governments.

He condemned the campaign unleashed by the United States against Cuba in an attempt to create a crisis in the Caribbean with the complete support of the Peruvian and Venezuelan governments. However, he said the campaign is doomed to failure.

He also alerted the world's progressive forces about the imperialist activities against the progressive regimes of Central America, and especially against Nicaragua and (El Salvador), in an attempt to halt the revolutionary advance.

MOZAMBIQUE

PRESIDENT MACHEL RECEIVES GDR'S MARGOT HONECKER

LD152248 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 15 Apr 80 EA

[Text] Samora Moises Machel, president of the FRELIMO Party and the People's Republic of Mozambique, received Margot Honecker, member of the Socialist Unity Party Central Committee and GDR minister of public education, in Maputo this afternoon. Present at the meeting, which took place at the party's national headquarters, were Joaquim Chissano, secretary for foreign affairs of the FRELIMO Party, and Graca Machel, member of the FRELIMO Party Central Committee. In a brief talk with President Samora Machel, Margot Honecker, who arrived in Mozambique 6 April at the head of a delegation from her country, said that her visit to Mozambique has enabled her to acquaint herself broadly with conditions in our country and the efforts which our party and state are making to develop the national economy. This morning the German minister visited a FRELIMO primary school situated in a Maputo suburb, where she acquainted herself with the educational system followed by the school.

MAPUTO REPORTS MERCENARIES IN RHODESIA DEPART FOR S. AFRICA

LD152008 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 15 Apr 80 EA

[Text] Salisbury--The Mozambican News Agency correspondent said today that hundreds of mercenaries, most of them South Africans and Americans and others from West European countries, who were formerly operating with the Rhodesian Army, had already crossed the border into South Africa. The same source believes that the mercenaries will be sent to Namibia to join the UNITA puppet gang. We recall that a few days after the announcement of the results of the Rhodesian elections on 4 March, Robert Mugabe, the prime minister-designate, called on the mercenaries in the Rhodesian Army to leave the country.

RHODESIA

HOME MINISTER NKOMO INTERVIEWED ON INDEPENDENCE, SECURITY

LD161004 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1614 GMT 15 Apr 80 CA

[Text] The minister of home affairs, Mr Joshua Nkomo, has described the coming of independence as an event of the greatest national importance. "Newsreel" asked him if he had any plans for call-ups to ensure that the people's high spirits don't get out of hand: [begin recording]

Well, I don't think matters will go out of hand, but we have had to take precautions. We have the police reservists. We'll have them around, and we'll have extra police on duty. The [words indistinct], that is the police, have been part of the independence committee, so they brought forward plans which have been approved by the committee. I am quite satisfied that the situation will be in hand.

[Question] The prime minister Mr Mugabe, and you yourself Mr Nkomo, have made it clear that you regard political intimidation as abhorrent. How prevalent is this in fact, or has peace spread across the country?

[Answer] Peace has spread across the country. I think that is quite clear. But after a war you do have people who have been engaged in the war continuing certain acts, and we do have dissidents that do continue some acts of violence. [Word indistinct] would not say this is political intimidation, although we have had cases that resembled political intimidation, and we are doing everything to see that this is removed. Yet some of it may come out of wrong interpretation of what independence means. Some people believe [words indistinct] what independence means, and they are free to do things if they want to do them, without going, taking into account that there are institutions that handle various methods, like law and order, and the police work and so on. And these have been problems. But I think they will be contained.

[Question] One obvious danger is that the men in the assembly points will get bored. What's your intention regarding the assembly points?

[Answer] Well, you know that is on the Defense Ministry's plate, but because we still have ZIPRA and ZANLA, so the political parties are still involved. We have spoken to these men and the prime minister has spoken to these men.

[Words indistinct] because it is still necessary [words indistinct] those who will join the army will possibly be absorbed in the shortest possible time, but the others might have to take up various jobs in civilian life. And the exercise in this has been carried out, and we have appealed to them to have a little more patience for a few more weeks or so.

[Question] But as the various units of the security forces are stood down do you see a danger of increased lawlessness?

[Answer] No, there is no question of standing down members of the security forces. They are being scaled down as the war, or as peace, takes effect. So while one hopes that during this period of jubilation everybody will be welcoming the event itself, it is independence of the country and one expects people to take this as a national event of greatest importance, and take it very seriously and control themselves. This is the position.

[Question] Minister, one final question: Can you say what you have in mind for the future of the police reserve?

[Answer] Well, the police reserve will remain. You know these are working people, they are called up when necessary and one hopes there will be no need to call them in, but we will have them remain and if necessary there will be call-ups. [end recording]

That was the minister of home affairs, Mr Joshua Nkomo. We apologise for the poor quality of the recording, it was due to a technical fault.

SOUTH AFRICA

RADIO REPORTS STEYN COMMISSION DENOUNCES U.S. ACTIONS

LD150940 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Apr 80 CA

[Text] The Steyn Commission on inquiry into reporting on security matters says that while the watchdog role of the media should be retained the press should not abuse its privileges. In its report tabled in parliament today it makes wide-ranging recommendations designed to give effect to this viewpoint and to create good relations between the authorities, the media and the country's various peoples. It said this was the golden thread that would insure the country's survival and ultimate victory.

The chairman of the commission, Mr Justice M.P. Steyn said the interests of the media and of the South African defense force and the South African police had to be delineated in such a way that only matters affecting the preparedness and the survival of the state should not be publishable. Attitudes could not be suppressed by (if these), and the authorities should depend on cooperation with the press to control sensitive security information rather than on restrictive legislation. Mr Steyn said information exposing administrative and other malpractices had to be permitted for the sake of effectiveness and to promote a sound relationship between the community and the security forces. Moreover, government secrecy had to be meaningful and restricted to the minimum necessary for the security interests of the state and the community to be safeguarded.

Oversensitivity to criticism and to the publication of information that was of public interest tended to create circumstances in which rumors thrived and in which panic could be created through uncertainty. The dissemination of as much information as possible to the media, especially in an escalating conflict situation, was essential in insuring an informed and watchful public.

Mr. Steyn said that on the other hand claims to press freedom were often exaggerated. Freedom of the press did not mean that the press had more or fewer rights than the individual. The cloak of press freedom could not be used to conceal or propagate self-interest on the part of the media. Its self-interest were elevated above the national interest such a situation could endanger the community's future existence. Press freedom was not a holy cow and there was no doubt that the state had the right to protect itself. Among the commissions' recommendations is that there should be a review of the official secrets act to limit its field of application. Another recommendation is that there should be legislation aimed at monitoring all propaganda and information activities undertaken on behalf of foreign principals.

The commission has also recommended that there should be a clear communications policy and plan and that this should be accepted as an additional aspect of national security. Furthermore, it proposes that the defense force and the police should give attention to improving their communications with the media, and, that discussions between the media and the security forces should be expanded. It recommends the enlargement of the newspaper press union's representation on the defense force liaison committee and the refinement of the present system of accrediting correspondents. Here it suggests a system of registration for foreign journalists working in South Africa. Both the police and the defense force, it says, should consider the issuing of media identity cards on a more selective basis.

One of the commission's recommendations applies specifically to incidents of terrorism such as the Silverton bank siege. It says in such cases operational media liaison centers should be established. Some of the commission's recommendations apply to the media exclusively. One of these is that the media should give urgent attention to raising the standard of professionalism in their ranks and that they should appoint only senior journalists to handle delicate security matters.

Another is that the newspaper press union should improve its internal communications and its communication with individual newspapers. Another recommendation affecting existing legislation is that the 1959 police act should be amended so as to prohibit the disclosure of unlawful information about antiterrorist measures. On the other hand the commission recommends that the defense act of 1957 be amended so as to enable the press to fulfill its watchdog role without compromising the defense force's safety.

Mr Steyn set his report against a background of South Africa's position in the broader international context, pointing out that the country was involved in a multidimensional conflict situation spurred on by Russian expansionism and nuclear stalemate between the superpowers. Southern Africa was the subject of strategic planning by the Soviet Union, the United States and the Third World, and their common aim was the replacement of the present constitutional dispensation with one that would be subservient to their respective ideologies.

Probably the most important element in maintaining social and political stability in South Africa concerns attitudes, and here the media was one of the most powerful instruments. A free, unafraid and informed but honest and basically loyal press was a precious community asset.

In this section of his report Mr Justice Steyn dealt at some length with the activities of the United States which, he said, employed a wide variety of political and economic methods to exert pressure on the South African Government to taking steps that would lead to a black majority government. The Carter administration's human rights stand stood as an international platform for the expression of moral indignation against South Africa, but the real aim was to earn the support of the Third World.

Mr Justice Steyn said the American plan of action inside South Africa relied on direct involvement by both official and private American organizations. Here he mentioned multinational business corporations, American Embassy personnel, the American labor attache in South Africa and the American cultural attache in Durban. He said they regularly invited foreign labor personalities to South Africa to influence the local labor force. Mr Justice Steyn said that psychologically the American Government sought to promote its political concepts for South Africa through a diversity of media and organizations. These included the Voice of America, the Africa-American Institute, and the American committee for equality in sport. Also noteworthy were American attempts to undermine the South African economy, among other ways by seeking to undermine the gold price.

ZAMBIA

SOMALI VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES EN ROUTE TO ZIMBABWE

LD151028 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Apr 80 CA

[Text] Somali Vice President Hussein Kulmiye Afrah arrived in Lusaka today on his way to represent his country at the Zimbabwe independence celebrations on 18 April. Mr Afrah, who was welcomed at the Lusaka international airport by Prime Minister Mr Daniel Lisulo, later called on Party Secretary General Mr Mainza Chona at Freedom House. Mr Chona told the visiting vice president, who will leave Lusaka for Rhodesia on Wednesday, that Zambia appreciated Somalia's role in the Zimbabwe liberation struggle and hailed the existing friendly relations between Zambia and Somalia. Mr Chona said Zambia was happy that Zimbabwe, which he referred to as Zambia's Siamese twin, had finally gained independence, adding that he appreciated Somalia's decision to send a man of Mr Afrah's status to represent it at the first independence celebrations for Zimbabwe. He also said that although South African troops were violating Zambia's territory they would soon be chased away and praised the United Nations for condemning South Africa's presence on Zambian soil. The party chief expressed the need for more concerted efforts by African countries in support of bringing about the independence of Namibia. He said once South Africa leaves Namibia it will be left only with its apartheid policy in South Africa.